

Shane Matthews Color Poster!

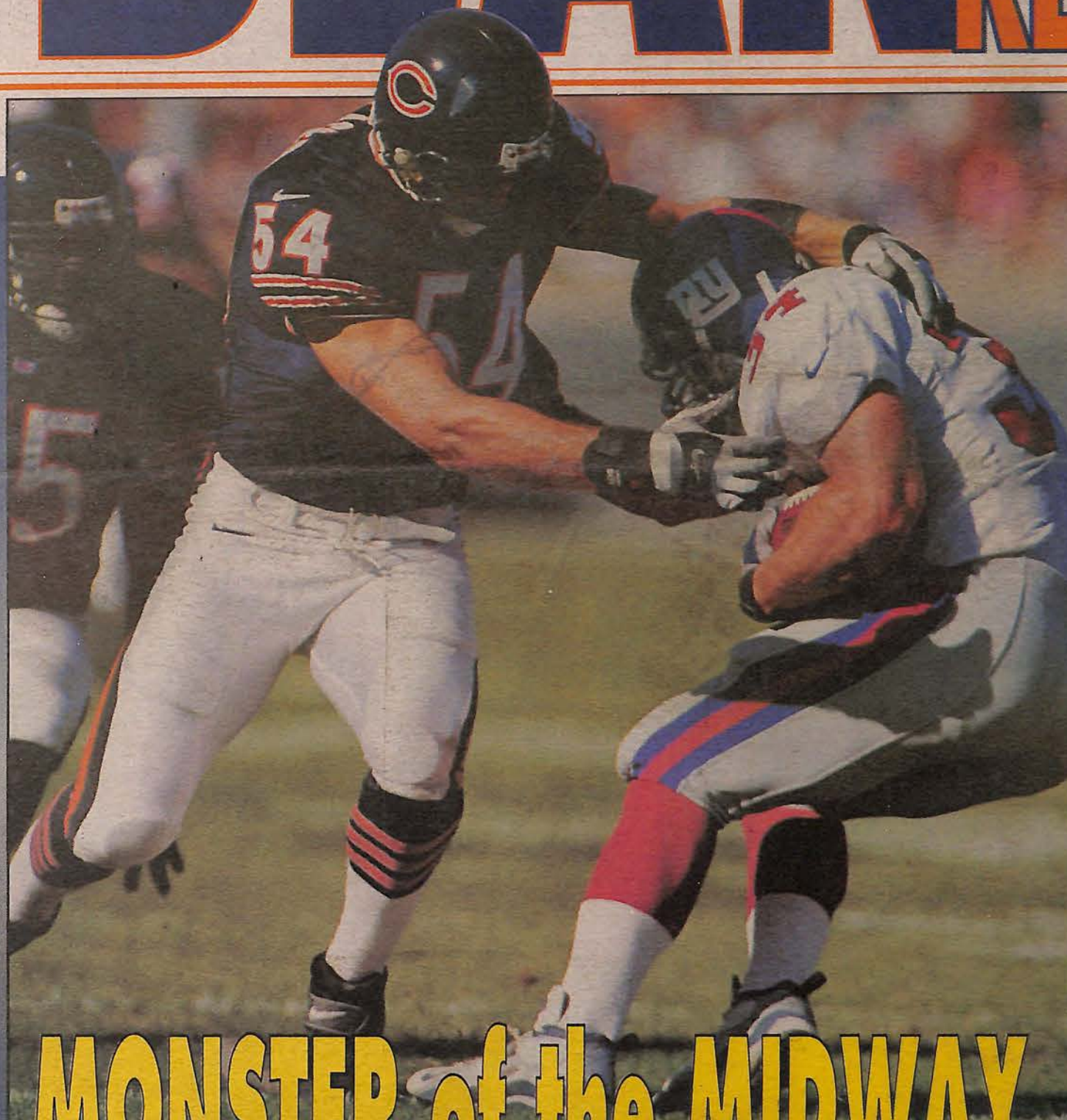
SUGGESTED RETAIL PRICE \$2.00

CHICAGO BEAR REPORT

Game Preview Inside



BEARS at JETS



Vol. 26 No. 1

November 25, 2000

**Defense
Carries
Bears to
Upset Win
Over Bucs**

**Soldier Field
Renovation
Proposal
Revealed**

**Crowton
Contacted
by BYU**

TO SUBSCRIBE CALL 800-728-6501

NEWS.
TIME SENSITIVE MATERIAL.
Please Deliver Immediately, But No
Later Than Saturday, November 25, 2000
www.bearreport.com



#BXNDXSG*****3-DIGIT 630
#10003649 9# B MHD COMP PK388 SK388
ST LOUIS RAMS
1 RAMS WAY
EARTH CITY MO 63045-1525

MONSTER of the MIDWAY

**Brian Urlacher is one Bear
who bears watching**



Extra Points

Armchair quarterback becomes the real thing

Mark Hartsell spent weekends in October back home in Boston helping a friend pave driveways and watching NFL games on satellite. A month later he found himself as the Bears' backup quarterback just one injury away from playing in his first NFL regular season game.

Hartsell and **Shane Matthews** entered Sunday's home game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers as the Bears' only two healthy quarterbacks. **Cade McNown** remains sidelined with a separated left shoulder and **Jim Miller** is out for the season with a torn left Achilles' tendon.

"I've talked to Shane about it. It's happened so fast. All of a sudden, we're the only two quarterbacks out there," Hartsell said. "In camp, there were five of us at the beginning. But this is what it's all about. There are injuries, and all of a sudden you're in. You've just got to be ready."

Last week Hartsell was moved up to the active roster from the practice squad, where he had been since Oct. 25. Hartsell was released by the Bears in their final cutdown in August after completing 21 of 40 passes for 181 yards with 1 TD and no interceptions in preseason action. When he originally signed with the Bears in March, the 6-4, 225-pounder had been out of football since 1997 when he was cut by the Washington Redskins in training camp.

Veteran journeyman **Billy Joe Tolliver** tried out at Halas Hall before the Bears signed Hartsell to the active roster.



By **Larry Mayer**
Managing Editor

ON THE MEND: Miller had successful surgery last Tuesday at Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital and will be in a cast for two weeks before beginning a 6-7 month rehabilitation. His torn Achilles' tendon is almost identical to the injury sustained by Jets quarterback **Vinny Testaverde** in last year's opener. Testaverde is back this season and will start Sunday against the Bears.

"I don't feel my career is over," said Miller, whose season also ended prematurely last year when he was suspended for the final four games by the NFL for taking an illegal supplement. "It's just disappointing because you get your shot and it's frustrating. Things like this have just happened in my career. They're character builders and I know I'll come back stronger."

CLIMBING THE LADDER: James Allen, who's on pace to become the first Bears running back to top 1,000 yards in a season since **Raymont Harris** in 1997, understands that developing at his position is a gradual process. Allen entered Sunday's game against Tampa Bay with 651 yards on 153 rushes, a 4.3 average.

"It takes a lot of discipline, week-in and week-out getting better," he said. "You're not going to wake one day and just be **Barry Sanders**. That's impossible. You've got to work at it."

"You want a steady climb up the ladder to success. It's a hard way up and it's so easy to fall down. I know that first-hand. No matter how good things go or how bad things go, I've just got to stay humble and stay critical and do the small things to get better."

Playing for a 2-8 team with a 20th-ranked offense doesn't seem like utopia to the casual observer, but Allen sounds like he wouldn't trade places with any other running back in the league.

"For me personally it's a good thing. I'm happy to be starting for the Chicago Bears," he said. "There is no other place I would rather play tailback. Because of all the history and all the people who played before me, it's an honor. I step back at times and think about that. How many people would love to be in my situation and my position? That's my motivation to keep the starting job. That's what's going to drive me to the next level."

ROSTER MOVES: The Bears placed defensive tackle **Robert Newkirk** on injured reserve eight days after he tore ligaments in his left wrist Oct. 5 against the Indianapolis Colts. His roster spot was filled by cornerback **Todd McMillon**, who was signed from the practice squad.

The Bears also signed linebacker **Mawuko Tugbenyoh** to their practice squad. The 6-1, 245-pounder played collegiately at California before being signed as an undrafted free agent by Tampa Bay in 2000. Tugbenyoh was waived in the 65-man cutdown date by the Bucs.

IN THE SPOTLIGHT

This long shot hits jackpot



Matthews

You don't have to play the ponies to know that long shots occasionally come in. Just ask **Shane Matthews**. The seventh-year pro from Florida never dreamed he would become the Bears' starting quarterback this season. Not when he arrived at training camp with virtually no chance to play behind **Cade McNown** and **Jim Miller**. And especially not after he contracted a life-threatening infection following off-season hernia surgery.

But there was Matthews on Sunday, starting at quarterback against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers at Soldier Field. McNown remains sidelined with a separated shoulder and Miller is out for the season with a torn Achilles' tendon.

"I really didn't think I'd play at all, but in this business crazy things have happened," Matthews said. "It seems our quarterbacks get hurt a lot more here than they do elsewhere. It's unfortunate, but I'll be ready to play."

Football was the last thing on his mind this spring when he developed a staph infection following surgery. It kept him bedridden for three months and caused him to lose 23 pounds. Doctors were puzzled and Matthews thought he was dying.

"I didn't know if I was going to live," he said. "It got scary, really scary. It was the worst three months of my life."

Slowly regaining his health, Matthews re-signed with the Bears. The Buccaneers had showed some interest but were scared away by the illness and a

clause in his contract that allowed the Bears to match any offer he received. As he prepared to play Tampa Bay last week, he was asked if he ever wonders what might have been had he joined the Bucs.

"You can't look back," Matthews said. "I'm just lucky to be alive. It would have been a great situation, but I have my opportunity here again, so I'm going to take full advantage of it."

With a full week of practice, Matthews was preparing to take better advantage than he did in relief of Miller in a 20-3 loss at Buffalo. In that game, he completed 11 of 24 passes with three interceptions and lost a fumble that was returned for a touchdown. His passer rating was an abysmal 19.1 for the effort.

"I still have no excuses," he said. "I expect a lot out of myself and just didn't play up to my standards. I've got a week of practice and will be ready to go."

The Bears opened 3-2 in 1999 with Matthews as the starter before he pulled his hamstring. Neither the player nor the team have been the same since.

— Larry Mayer

McNown recovery on schedule

Cade McNown is steadily progressing in his recovery from a separated left shoulder and there's "an outside chance" he could return to action Sunday against the New York Jets.

It's more likely, however, that the second-year quarterback won't play until the following week when the Bears host the Green Bay Packers. He was ruled out 4-6 weeks when he sustained the injury Oct. 22 in Philadelphia.

"He's throwing the ball, I think we advanced to 15 yards last week, and he still had soreness," said coach **Dick Jauron**. "But they said that's right on schedule."

McNown was optimistic after testing his injured throwing shoulder last week at Halas Hall.

"It felt a little better. I was

throwing a little harder," he said. "It definitely feels stronger, but it hits a point where it gets really tired and sore. That's part of the progress. It feels a little better than the day before."

McNown is resisting the temptation to do too much.

"You just have to be cautious because you don't know when you're getting to the point where you're going to start hurting it more than helping it," he said. "I have to be as patient as I've ever been because I felt like right now I can go out there and throw pretty well. ... But then you start damaging it even more. So I'm being careful. I am frustrated, but it's just part of the game and you have to bounce back."

— Larry Mayer



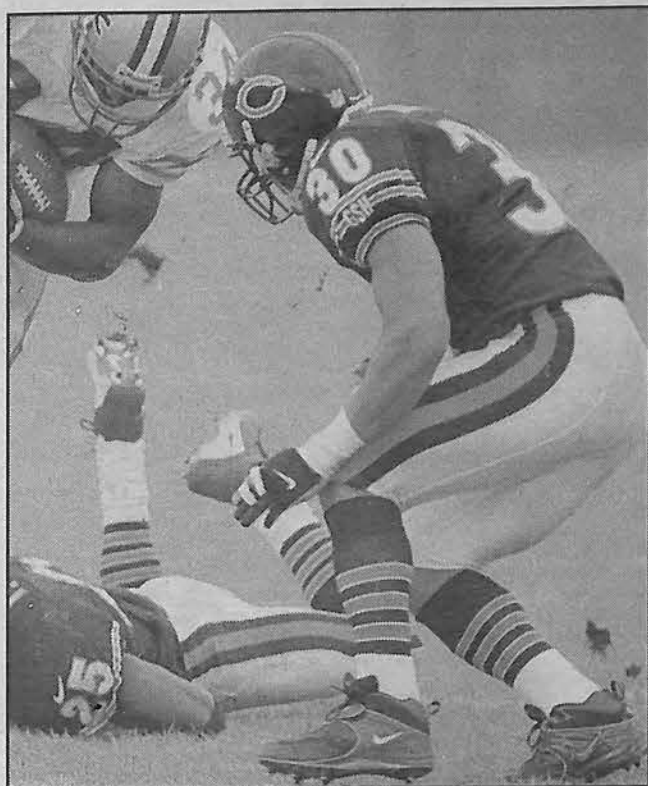
Cade McNown

THEY SAID IT



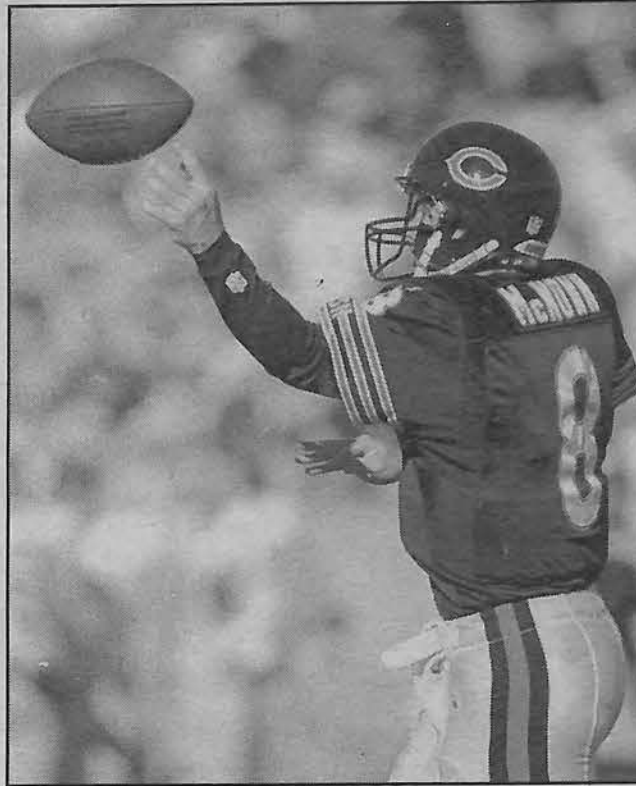
“From my point of view, he's advancing faster than I anticipated he would. He's very gifted and a very hard worker and he loves to play.”

Dick Jauron on Brian Urlacher



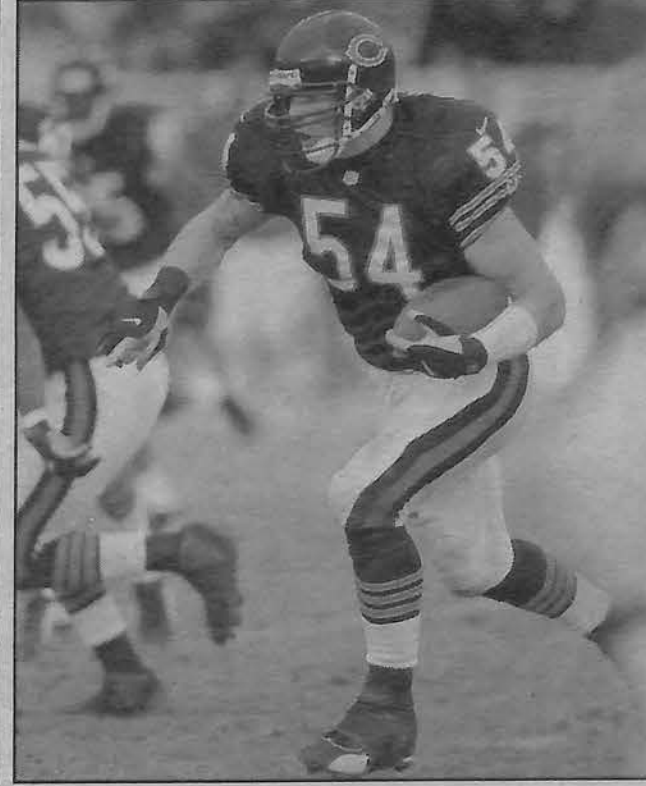
p.6

TAKING FLIGHT: Mike Brown and the Bears look to ground the Jets Sunday at the Meadowlands.



p.10

NOW OR NEVER: When he returns from his injury, it's time to find out if Cade McNown is the answer at QB.



p.12

ROOKIE ON THE RISE: Brian Urlacher clinches Sunday's win over Tampa Bay with this interception.



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

COVER STORY

5 **Monster of the Midway:** Rookie Brian Urlacher is giving Bear fans a reason to be excited about an otherwise dismal season.

Cover photo by Steve Woltmann

FEATURES

4 **BYU bound?:** Gary Crowton continues to focus all of his attention on his responsibilities as the Bears' offensive coordinator, but that situation may change in the next few weeks.

9 **Memory lane:** A 19-13 decision over the Jets wasn't the greatest win in Bears history, but it may have been one of the most improbable.

17 **Home sweet home:** The Bears and the city unveil a \$587 million Soldier Field renovation plan that still requires legislative approval.

COLUMNISTS

10 **Mark Potash:** Jim Miller's injury all but made the Bears' decision for them—it's time to find out if Cade McNown is the quarterback of the future or not.

15 **Doug Buffone:** The Bears ignored possible distractions and played a great defensive football game in upsetting Tampa Bay.

18 **Bob LeGere:** Injuries to Cade McNown and Jim Miller catapult Mark Hartsell from unemployment to No. 2 on the depth chart.

NEWS

12-15 **Bucs stop here:** The Bears turned the tables on Tampa Bay with a big-play pressure defense of their own in a 13-10 upset victory over the Bucs at Soldier Field.



Photo by Steve Woltmann

Catch me if you can

Receiver Eddie Kennison is a step ahead of Bucs linebacker Derrick Brooks in the Bears' 13-10 win over Tampa Bay Sunday at Soldier Field.



Vol. 26 No. 1 November 25, 2000

MANAGING EDITOR

Larry Mayer

PUBLISHER

VICE PRESIDENT, ROYLE PUBLICATIONS

John Weishar

ADVERTISING SALES

112 Market St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Ron Royle

(800) 728-6315, Ext. 276

MEMBER

Professional Football Publications Assoc.

CIRCULATION DEPARTMENT

Patty Royle, Tracy Willing,

Carla Kozak

(608) 837-2200

Chicago Bear Report (USPS 322-850) (ISSN 1056-4284)
is published monthly February, March, April, May, June

and July; weekly August through December, except one
bye date, by Royle Publications, Inc., 112 Market Street,
Sun Prairie, WI 53590.

Chicago Bear Report is a wholly owned subsidiary of
Royle Publications, Inc. and not an official publication of
the Chicago Bears.

All rights reserved, no portion of this publication
may be reproduced without permission.

SUBSCRIPTIONS — \$39.95 (26 issues). Foreign
subscribers, \$54.95 (26 issues); First class mail an addi-
tional \$30 per season. Air mail for foreign subscribers
only, an additional \$55 per season. Periodical postage

paid at Sun Prairie, WI 53590 and additional offices.

POSTMASTER SEND ADDRESS CHANGES
TO — Chicago Bear Report, 112 Market Street, Sun Prairie,
WI 53590.

GENERAL OFFICES — 112 Market Street, Sun
Prairie, WI 53590, (608) 837-2200.

WEB SITE — www.bearreport.com

PLEASE SEND SUBSCRIPTION REQUESTS
TO — 112 Market Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590, (608)
837-2200.

EDITORIAL OFFICES — P.O. Box 4205, Arlington
Heights, IL 60006, (847) 398-3434. E-mail address:
BearReport@aol.com.



Crowton contacted by BYU

Considered top candidate for coaching job

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Gary Crowton continues to focus all of his attention on his responsibilities as the Bears' offensive coordinator, but that situation may change in the next few weeks.

Brigham Young University has officially contacted Crowton about the school's head-coaching job and may push to arrange an interview after Thanksgiving. Crowton, a Provo, Utah, native, is considered the leading candidate to replace retiring longtime coach LaVell Edwards.

Crowton, 43, has repeatedly said that he prefers to wait until the Bears season ends Dec. 24 in Detroit to discuss the job opening. But BYU may want to have a coach in place before that date to help in its recruiting efforts involving junior college players. The Cougars will not name a replacement for Edwards until after they conclude their season Nov. 24 at Utah.

"I told them that I didn't want to think

about it for a while," Crowton said. "I told them I'm concentrating on the Bears right now and I want to do the best job I can here. When they feel like they need to start making decisions and they want to start pressing it, I'll have to consider what I'm going to do."

BYU athletic director Val Hale spoke with Crowton about the job on the telephone briefly last Monday after receiving permission to do so from Bears president Ted Phillips and head coach Dick Jauron. Crowton also had a discussion with Edwards.

"This is the first time I talked to anybody from BYU this whole year," Crowton said. "I don't feel any pressure right now like I have to make up my mind. They just called me and talked to me about the job. The timing of it was never talked about it."

"They might not even call me back. But if they call me back and give me (a deadline), I'll have to sit down with Ted and Dick and talk about it with them. But right now it hasn't happened."

Crowton, who interviewed for the vacant head-coaching job with the New England Patriots last offseason, appears to be a perfect fit for BYU. He's a Mormon who was born and raised in Utah and still has a lot of family there. He graduated from BYU and his grandfather was an assistant football coach at the school. He's also been close friends with Hale since

high school.

"For those reasons I will consider the job," Crowton said. "But I have by no means accepted the job right now and I'm not sure what I'm going to do, to be honest with you."

Crowton refuted a report broadcast last Tuesday night by KSL-TV in Utah that he had already agreed to become BYU's next head coach. The television station announced that Crowton had been offered the job "and will take it at a later date."

"Somebody told me that there was a story out that I'd accepted a job from BYU. That's not true," Crowton said. "BYU asked for permission to talk to me. They just explained to me about the job. I haven't interviewed there, I haven't visited there. They just asked (the Bears) for permission to talk to me and I talked to them on the phone a little bit, but that's the extent of it. They told me I was one of the candidates and that was basically the gist of the conversation."

A major factor in the decision will be what's best for Crowton's wife, Maren, and their six children.

"I'm still not sure that's the direction I want to go at this point," he said. "I just have to talk it over with my wife when the time is right and we'll make the decision."

Crowton's departure to BYU seems to be a foregone conclusion to some, but unfinished business is the one thing that may keep him in Chicago. Crowton, hired by Jauron in 1999 after three seasons as head coach at Louisiana Tech, has seen his offense slump badly this year. The unit has plummeted from eighth overall last season to 20th entering Sunday's game against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

"I feel a great responsibility here," Crowton said. "I feel very fortunate to have this opportunity. I've been disappointed because of what has happened this season. I make no excuses for it. But I want to do better. I want to make sure that we, as a team, are moving in the right direction. I think we are."

"It does have a bearing on my decision. I want to make sure I feel good about this job."



Photo by Steve Woltmann

Gary Crowton, here conferring with QB Cade McNown, says he feels a "great responsibility" to the Bears.

There's a lot to be considered. I know that. But I'll tell you this: I've always wanted to do a good job wherever I'm at. And right now I feel I can do a better job than what's happened this year."

One way or another, Crowton will likely have to make one of the most important decisions of his life within the next month or so.

"I want the best for my family," he said. "I want to make sure I'm a good father to my kids. As far as a career goal, I want to be a head coach, maybe some day in the NFL. My feeling right now is to do the best job I can with the Bears."

"I'm really happy here. And that is a good opportunity there. It leaves a tough decision."

Bears back Crowton, but focus on finishing season with flurry

Dick Jauron understands that losing Gary Crowton to BYU is a real possibility. But at the moment, the Bears' head coach is more concerned with salvaging something positive from a dismal season than the possibility of replacing his offensive coordinator.

"It is a consideration, but we're totally focused on ... finishing our year as best we can, and then we'll deal with whatever happens in that regard," Jauron said.

Jauron has pledged his full support even if Crowton is forced to accept the BYU job before the Bears end their season.

"Obviously the timing would be better for us if it would be after our season, but that's not the way it works," Jauron said. "BYU will have their own timetable. They will have a timetable and we'll abide by that. We'll certainly do whatever we can to help Gary and what he wants to do."

Dick Jauron
Top concern still
winning games



Jauron wouldn't say whether a replacement would come from his current staff or outside the organization. Wide receivers coach Mike Borich and quarterbacks coach John Shoop are the most logical successors currently with the team.

Jauron did downplay the potential impact Crowton's loss would have on the Bears offense.

"What we do is not significantly different from what most teams in the (NFL) do," Jauron said. "There would be change, obviously. But in terms of structure of the offense, playing with different personnel groupings, it wouldn't change."

— Larry Mayer

**"NUTS
AND BOLTS.
WE GOT
SCREWED."**

**BEAR CHAT ROOMS AT
BearReport.com**

message boards • chat • audio & video highlights
• in-depth team analysis • team gear

powered by

rivals.com

COVER STORY Urlacher legend growing larger

MIKE MULLIGAN



These are dark days for the Bears, no doubt about it. Losing games. Losing quarterbacks. Losing hope.

But at least there is a reason to watch other than the fascination of the abomination we've witnessed the past few years. That reason is a group of young defensive players led by rookie middle linebacker Brian Urlacher who covers the field so well you'd swear he's been cloned.

In a recent loss to Buffalo Urlacher was credited with a career-high 16 tackles which increased his team lead to 108 on the season.

Urlacher is on pace to become the first rookie to lead the Bears in tackles since Doug Plank managed 123 in 1975. The only other rookie to lead the Bears in tackles was Wally Chambers with 101 in 1973.

"I'm in awe," fellow rookie Mike Brown said. "I think he's one of the best linebackers in the NFL. If you watch him week-to-week he's all over the field making tackles. His name is called on every play. He's got 10-plus tackles every game. It's unbelievable."

Urlacher and Brown, a second round pick who starts at free safety, are two of the reasons to stay with the Bears down the stretch.

To steal an advertising slogan the White Sox used: the kids can play. The Sox used that slogan in 1999 and a year later they produced the best record in major league baseball. The young Bears might end up pulling off the same feat, according to some observers.



Photo by Steve Woltmann

In October Brian Urlacher became the first Bear to win NFL Rookie Defensive Player of the Month since the award's inception in 1996.

"These guys are going to be Pro Bowlers, both of them," veteran defensive lineman Clyde Simmons predicted. "They have the right mentality. They come out and work and try to make their weaknesses into their strengths. They are natural leaders and they both show their ability in every game."

Indeed, Brown might be a candidate for defensive rookie of the year were he not so overshadowed by Urlacher. The Bears have some other good young defensive players in Warrick Holdman and Tony Parrish. But the Urlacher legend grows larger and greater with every game.

Part of it is the fact that he plays a position

that the Bears literally created. Part of it is the fact that it's always been about defense in Chicago. The Bears tradition doesn't belong to Sid Luckman, Johnny Lujack, Jim McMahon or Cade McNown. It belongs to Bill George, Dick Butkus, Mike Singletary and Urlacher.

The city of broad shoulders loves running backs and linebackers. Urlacher might be the best of either since Singletary retired. With his freakish size and speed he might end up being better than any linebacker but Butkus, patron saint of all Bears.

Which brings us to the mythology of Urlacher's story. He comes from a small town in an unknown state. What do we really know of New Mexico? Can we sing a New Mexican song? Prepare a New Mexican dish? Name another New Mexican athlete?

As far as anyone in Chicago cares the place is a broad expanse of desert and rocks populated by the odd coyote, the kind of place you'd find in a Road Runner cartoon. How does such desolate earth produce a middle linebacker of such potential?

And remember, Urlacher is still a work in progress.

"There are still a lot of plays out there for me to make," Urlacher said. "I can still fly around a lot more and get to the ball carrier faster. There are still some gray areas out there for me."

"When they run away from me, sometimes I'm not sure whether to go over or stay behind the ball. There is still plenty for me to learn."

Fame won't come overnight for Urlacher. You suspect he'll have a difficult time getting to the Pro Bowl this year even if he does belong there. A scout said recently one of the things in Urlacher's favor is that his tall, lanky frame stands out on film.

In an era where plenty of middle linebackers are on the short size like Miami's Zach Thomas and St. Louis' London Fletcher, Urlacher fits the Butkus prototype. Butkus was 6-3, 250 pounds. Urlacher is 6-3, 240. He's the tallest middle linebacker in the NFC with only former Bear Bryan Cox, listed at 6-4, taller than



"I'm in awe. I think he's one of the best linebackers in the NFL. ... he's all over the field making tackles."
Mike Brown on Urlacher

him in the AFC.

Of course, it doesn't help when a place like Buffalo releases a quote sheet with kicker Paul Edinger's name atop Urlacher's quotes. But you suspect there will come a time everyone knows his name.

Linebackers coach Dale Lindsey has compared Urlacher to All-Pro middle linebacker Junior Seau, but says the San Diego star is more physical than Urlacher. It's a part of his game the Bears star wants to improve. He says he sometimes uses his speed to run past blockers instead of running through them to get to the ball. He's also been knocked around on occasion.

And Urlacher said his desire to be overly physical has sometimes hurt him.

"I think I missed two or three tackles just not wrapping up and breaking down," Urlacher said. "I get too excited when I get there and I try to run over them. I can't do that. I need to break them down."

"It's a mental thing for me. I have to learn to break runners down and not just go for the big hit all the time."

Sadly, the Bears are at a point where all that remains interesting is the big hit. Watching them now is like watching in the days of Doug Plank and Gary Fencik when a blowup hit from a safety was the most you could hope for.

"Every week I feel better and better, but I still feel like a rookie," Urlacher said. "I know I can improve a lot."

Maybe it's a disservice to compare Urlacher to some of the Bears' greatest players. Perhaps we should just let him develop into his own man unencumbered by comparison.

Still, you get the feeling Urlacher won't be halted by pressure of any kind. He'll keep getting better and provide the fans with a reason to tune in down the stretch of this lost season.

The guy is that rarest of player, a Bear who bears watching.

Mike Mulligan covers the Bears and the NFL for the Chicago Sun-Times.



BEARS CRUISE

SAIL THE EASTERN CARIBBEAN WITH BEAR STARS MARCH 3 - 10, 2001

TO THE EXCITING PORTS OF SAN JUAN, ST. THOMAS, ST. CROIX

JIM FLANIGAN • DAN HAMPTON • DOUG PLANK

EXCLUSIVE EVENTS

800-783-1990

FOR BEARS FANS AND PLAYERS ONLY!

Autograph & Picture Session, Question & Answer Session,
Private Cocktail Party, Free Player Photos & Souvenir

Carnival



- Airfare Available from Most Major Cities
- Airport Transfers with Baggage Handling
- 7 Exciting Days and Nights Aboard the CARNIVAL TRIUMPH
- All Shipboard Meals and Entertainment

GAME PREVIEW



CHICAGO BEARS

Facts and Figures

Kickoff: Noon (ct), Sunday, Nov. 26
Site: Giants Stadium, New Jersey
Capacity: 79,466.
Playing surface: Natural grass
Last meeting: Jets won 23-15 Nov. 16, 1997 at Soldier Field. The Jets intercepted Erik Kramer three times and Steve Stenstrom once and made a 23-0 first-half lead stand up. Keyshawn Johnson caught a 35-yard TD pass from Glenn Foley, Otis Smith returned an interception 38 yards for another score, and John Hall kicked field goals of 34, 36 and 34 yards.
Series: Bears lead 4-2 and have won 4 of 5. Bears are 2-0 on the road vs. Jets.



NEW YORK JETS

at

Bears seeking to play spoiler role

By Gene Chamberlain
 Bear Report Correspondent

A team trying to remain in playoff contention hardly seems like the ideal opponent for a struggling Bears team, but that could be the case in Sunday's game at the Meadowlands.

The Jets started the season on fire, winning six of their first seven. Then came a three-game losing streak. Their classic 40-37 comeback win over Miami boosted their record and confidence level, but exposed some major flaws in a defense that had given up 18 points per game the first six weeks. They allowed 28 points a game over the next four weeks, chiefly due to a porous pass defense.

The Bears struggled to move the ball against Buffalo's 3-4 defense, but the Bills have a dominant nose tackle in Ted Washington. The nose tackle is the key to the 3-4, and the Jets' Jason Ferguson is not in that same class as Washington.

The Jets' defense ranked only 17th in

the league through 10 games in rushing yards allowed. One of their top performers is former Bear Bryan Cox.

The Bears figure to start Shane Matthews at quarterback. Jim Miller is out for the season after tearing his left Achilles' tendon Nov. 12 in Buffalo. There's only an outside chance Cade McNown will be able to play Sunday. McNown suffered a separated left shoulder Oct. 22 in Philadelphia and probably won't be at full strength until December.

James Allen has quietly emerged as a bright spot on a Bears offense that generally thinks pass first and runs only when it has to.

The challenge for the Bears' defense appears much greater than it was against Buffalo, especially in the running game. Few backs in the NFL are comparable to Curtis Martin's combination of speed, power and versatility. He is closing in on 1,000 yards rushing and has a personal best for receptions with five games still remaining.

However, coming off Achilles' surgery, quarterback Vinny Testaverde has hardly been the red-hot passer he was prior to his injury. His quarterback rating has been in the low 70s and he'd thrown 15 interceptions going into last week's Miami game.

The Bears' defense has displayed gradual progress over the past eight weeks chiefly due to continuity and the continuing progress made by big-play rookies Brian Urlacher and Mike Brown.

The chance to be a spoiler is hardly great incentive, but at this point in the season it's about all the Bears can look forward to besides building for next year.

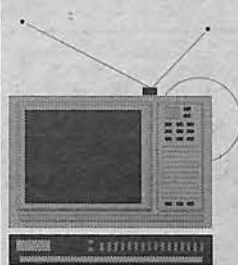
And with the Jets teetering on the edge of AFC playoff contention under a first-year head coach, the opportunity exists for Chicago to sneak out with a victory.

One person rooting for the Bears will be former head coach Dave Wannstedt, whose Dolphins are locked in a battle with the Jets in the AFC East.



Quarterback Vinny Testaverde, who leads the Jets against the Bears Sunday, has recovered from the same Achilles' injury Jim Miller sustained Nov. 12.

ON THE AIR



Television:

FOX will televise the game live to a regional audience.



Radio:

WBBM-AM (780) will carry the game live with Gary Bender, Hub Arkush and Tom Thayer announcing.

Who rates the advantage?

By Gene Chamberlain

		Positions	Comments
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Quarterback	Vinny inaccurate, but more dependable than the three Bears.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Running back	Curtis Martin the all-purpose backfield threat Bears lack.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Wide receiver	Chrebet, Ward, Coles get open and have better hands.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Tight end	Sinceno a Bear six games, nearly equals Jet TE catches.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Offensive line	Young, big Jets line has been carefully assembled.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Defensive line	Bears castoff Shane Burton now starting at end for New York.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Linebackers	Lewis, Jones, Phifer complementing former Bear Bryan Cox.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Secondary	Aaron Glenn-led group has more picks, less yards allowed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Special teams	Hall, Tupa better for distance than Edinger, Aguiar.



CHICAGO BEARS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Exp.	College
2	Paul Edinger	K	5-10	162	22	R	Michigan State
8	Cade McNown	QB	6-1	208	23	2	UCLA
9	Shane Matthews	QB	6-3	196	30	7	Florida
10	Louie Aguiar	P	6-2	220	34	10	Utah State
11	Mark Hartsell	QB	6-4	225	26	1	Boston College
20	James Allen	RB	5-10	215	24	3	Oklahoma
21	R.W. McQuarters	CB	5-9	198	23	3	Oklahoma State
22	Shawn Wooden	S	5-11	205	26	5	Notre Dame
23	Jerry Azumah	CB	5-10	195	22	2	New Hampshire
24	Glyn Milburn	RB/KR	5-8	176	28	8	Stanford
25	Thomas Smith	CB	5-11	190	27	1	North Carolina
26	Todd McMillon	CB	5-10	183	27	1	Northern Arizona
27	Walt Harris	CB	5-11	195	26	5	Mississippi State
29	Frankie Smith	S	5-9	194	31	8	Baylor
30	Mike Brown	S	5-10	202	22	R	Nebraska
32	Marlon Barnes	RB	5-9	215	24	1	Colorado
37	Tony Parrish	S	5-10	211	24	3	Washington
43	Mike Green	S	6-0	176	23	R	Northwestern State
44	Curtis Enis	RB	6-0	250	24	3	Penn State
45	Scott Dragos	FB/TE	6-2	245	24	1	Boston College
47	Ray McElroy	DB	5-11	196	28	5	Eastern Illinois
53	Warrick Holdman	LB	6-1	246	24	2	Texas A&M
54	Brian Urlacher	LB	6-3	244	22	R	New Mexico
55	Sean Harris	LB	6-3	252	27	6	Arizona
57	Olin Kreutz	C	6-2	285	23	3	Washington
58	Chris Villarrial	G	6-4	308	27	5	Indiana (PA)
59	Rosevelt Colvin	LB	6-3	254	23	2	Purdue
60	Casey Wiegmann	C	6-3	285	25	5	Iowa
64	Rex Tucker	OL	6-5	315	23	2	Texas A&M
65	Patrick Mannelly	T/LS	6-5	270	25	3	Duke
71	James Williams	T	6-7	331	31	10	Cheyney State (PA)
74	Jimmy Herndon	T	6-8	318	27	5	Houston
75	Todd Perry	G	6-5	308	29	8	Kentucky
76	Brad Culpepper	DT	6-1	270	31	9	Florida
78	Blake Brockermeyer	T	6-4	300	26	6	Texas
79	Jerry Wisne	T	6-6	315	24	2	Notre Dame
80	Dez White	WR	6-0	219	21	R	Georgia Tech
82	Eddie Kennison	WR	6-0	198	27	5	LSU
83	Macey Brooks	WR	6-5	212	24	2	James Madison
85	Kaseem Sinceno	TE	6-4	255	24	3	Syracuse
86	Marty Booker	WR	5-11	215	24	2	Northwest Louisiana
87	D'Wayne Bates	WR	6-2	215	24	2	Northwestern
88	Marcus Robinson	WR	6-3	215	24	4	South Carolina
89	Dustin Lyman	TE	6-4	250	24	R	Wake Forest
90	Van Tuinei	DE	6-4	290	28	4	Arizona
91	Khari Samuel	LB	6-3	240	23	2	Massachusetts
92	Barry Minter	LB	6-2	250	29	8	Tulsa
93	Phillip Daniels	DE	6-5	290	27	5	Georgia
95	Troy Wilson	DE	6-4	257	29	5	Pittsburgh State
96	Clyde Simmons	DE	6-5	292	36	15	Western Carolina
97	Mike Wells	DT	6-3	315	29	8	Iowa
98	Bryan Robinson	DE	6-4	300	26	4	Fresno State
99	Jim Flanigan	DT	6-2	290	29	7	Notre Dame
Practice squad							
38	Brian Edwards	RB	6-1	220	24	2	E. Tennessee State
52	Dustin Cohen	LB	6-3	236	23	R	Miami (Ohio)
67	Gannon Shepherd	OT	6-8	301	28	R	Duke
Injured Reserve							
12	Brent Bartholomew	P	6-2	220	23	2	Ohio State
14	Sulecio Sanford	WR	5-10	190	23	1	Middle Tenn. State
15	Jim Miller	QB	6-2	215	28	7	Michigan State
17	Chad Mackey	WR	6-2	205	25	1	Louisiana Tech
31	Cedric Donaldson	CB	5-9	176	24	1	Louisiana State
39	Reggie Austin	CB	5-9	173	23	R	Wake Forest
62	Robert Newkirk	DT	6-3	290	23	1	Michigan State
63	Brad Williams	G	6-4	295	22	R	Notre Dame
81	Bobby Engram	WR	5-10	185	27	5	Penn State
84	John Allred	TE	6-4	246	26	4	USC

Age as of opening weekend 2000



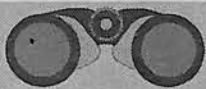
NEW YORK JETS

No.	Name	Pos.	Ht.	Wt.	Age	Yr.	College
6	Ray Lucas	QB	6-3	214	28	4	Rutgers
7	Tom Tupa	P/QB	6-4	225	34	12	Ohio State
9	John Hall	K	6-3	228	26	4	Wisconsin
10	Chad Pennington	QB	6-3	225	24	R	Marshall
16	Vinnie Testaverde	QB	6-5	235	37	14	Miami
20	Richie Anderson	FB	6-2	230	29	8	Penn State
21	Victor Green	SS	5-11	210	30	8	Akron
24	Ray Mickens	CB	5-8	184	27	5	Texas A&M
25	Nick Ferguson	S	5-11	201	27	1	Georgia Tech
27	Tony Scott	CB	5-10	193	24	R	North Carolina St.
28	Curtis Martin	RB	5-11	210	27	6	Pittsburgh
30	Chris Hayes	SS	6-0	206	28	4	Washington St.
31	Aaron Glenn	CB/KR	5-9	185	26	7	Texas A&M
33	Jerald Sowell	FB	6-0	245	26	4	Tulane
34	Bernie Parmalee	RB	5-11	210	33	9	Ball State
37	Jake Moreland	FB/TE	6-3	255	23	R	W. Michigan
38	Earthwind Moreland	CB	5-11	185	23	R	Georgia Southern
42	Marcus Coleman	CB	6-2	210	26	5	Texas Tech
47	Scott Frost	FS	6-3	219	25	3	Nebraska
51	Bryan Cox	LB	6-4	250	32	10	W. Illinois
53	Courtney Ledyard	LB	6-2	250	23	1	Michigan St.
54	Dwayne Gordon	LB	6-1	245	31	8	New Hampshire
55	Marvin Jones	LB	6-2	250	28	8	Florida St.
56	Roman Phifer	LB	6-2	248	32	10	UCLA
57	Mo Lewis	LB	6-3	258	31	10	Georgia
58	James Farrior	LB	6-2	244	25	4	Virginia
63	J.P. Machado	C/G	6-4	300	24	2	Illinois
65	Kevin Mawae	C	6-4	305	29	7	Louisiana St.
69	Jason Fabini	T	6-7	312	26	3	Cincinnati
70	Chad Blaughter	T	6-7	344	22	R	Alcorn St.
71	Kerry Jenkins	G/T	6-5	305	27	3	Troy St.
72	Jason Ferguson	DT	6-3	305	26	4	Georgia
73	Maurice Anderson	DT	6-3	280	25	R	Virginia
74	Ryan Young	T	6-5	320	24	2	Kansas St.
76	John Elliott	T	6-7	305	35	13	Michigan
77	Randy Thomas	G	6-4	301	24	2	Mississippi St.
79	David Loverne	G	6-3	299	24	2	San Jose St.
80	Wayne Chrebet	WR	5-10	186	27	6	Hofstra
81	Bradford Barta	TE	6-6	255	29	7	S. California
83	Dwight Stone	WR/KR	6-0	195	36	14	Middle Tenn. St.
84	Fred Baxter	TE	6-3	265	29	8	Auburn
85	Jermaine Wiggins	TE	6-2	255	25	1	Georgia
86	Windrell Hayes	WR/KR	5-11	198	23	R	S. California
87	Laveranues Coles	WR/KR	5-11	190	22	R	Florida St.
88	Anthony Becht	TE	6-5	267	23	R	West Virginia
89	Dedric Ward	WR/KR	5-9	184	26	4	Northern Iowa
91	Jason Wiltz	DT/DE	6-4	300	24	2	Nebraska
92	Shaun Ellis	DE	6-5	280	23	R	Tennessee
93	Ernie Logan	DT	6-3	290	32	9	East Carolina
94	John Abraham	LB	6-3	250	22	R	South Carolina
95	Rick Lyle	DE	6-5	290	29	7	Missouri
97	Dorian Boose	DE	6-5	292	26	3	Washington St.
98	Shane Burton	DE/DT	6-6	305	26	5	Tennessee
Injured Reserve							
62	Greg Lotysz	T	6-6	318	26	1	North Dakota
99	Eric Ogbogu	DE	6-4	285	25	3	Maryland
Practice Squad							
32	Marlon Jackson	RB	6-1	237	23	R	Saginaw Valley St.
50	J.J. Syvrud	LB	6-3	285	23	2	Jamestown (ND)
78	Cornel Green	T	6-6	320	26	1	Central Florida
82	Shannon Myers	WR	6-1	194	27	1	Lenoir-Rhyne
95	Jon Michals	DE	6-4	282	23	R	Minnesota

What to Watch

The Bryan Cox factor. In other words, penalty flags. Cox plays against his former team for the

first time since leaving after the 1997 season — just one of former coach Dave Wannstedt's many big personnel gaffes. Cox isn't the same player he was with the Miami Dolphins, but lining up alongside Mo Lewis, Roman Phifer and Marvin Jones in a 3-4 defense could extend the careers of a lot of linebackers who are past their prime. There aren't a lot of Bears still remaining on the team from Cox's not-so-memorable stint in Chicago, but three of those left play on the offensive line and used to face the volatile linebacker every day in practice.



MEET THE COACHES

Dick Jauron



Dick Jauron, 50, is 8-18 in two seasons as Bears coach including 3-3 against the AFC. Starting with Week 15 last year and going through this season, his Bears teams have had an average losing margin of 14.8 points. Jauron, who was born in Peoria, spent nine seasons with Green Bay as defensive backs coach, then four years as Jacksonville's defensive coordinator.



Al Groh



Al Groh, 56, is 6-4 in his first season as Bill Parcells' hand-picked successor. Groh spent 1997-1999 as Jets linebackers coach. In

New England under Parcells, he was defensive coordinator and linebackers coach from 1993-96. In all, Groh has spent 13 years working with Parcells, currently the Jets' director of football operations. Groh was head coach at Wake Forest from 1981-86.

All-time Meetings

Year	Winner (Site)
1997	Jets 23-15 (S)
1994	Bears 19-7 (NJ)
1991	Bears 19-13, OT (S)
1985	Bears 19-6 (NJ)
1979	Bears 23-13 (S)
1974	Jets 23-21 (S)

Stadium codes:

S (Soldier Field)

NJ (Giants Stadium, East Rutherford, NJ)



KEY MATCHUPS



WALT HARRIS

vs.

WAYNE CHREBET

A solid performer for six seasons as a possession receiver, Chrebet leads all Jets wideouts this season and is on course for a career-best in receiving yards. He's not big (5-10, 188) or fast-fast, but he runs precise routes and rarely drops a pass. Chrebet has 111 career catches for 1,560 yards on third down.

Harris made interceptions in consecutive games against Indianapolis and Buffalo and has 14 career picks. The 1996 first-round pick is in the final year of his Bears contract and is an unrestricted free agent after this season.



Walt Harris



Wayne Chrebet

PHILLIP DANIELS

vs.

JASON FABINI

Fabini is a 6-foot-7, 312-pound left tackle who missed seven games last year with a torn anterior cruciate ligament. The Cincinnati product switched from right tackle to left tackle this season. He has the responsibility of protecting Vinny Testaverde's blind side.

Daniels had five sacks through 10 games after signing a \$24 million free agent contract. Has been instrumental in a Bears run defense that held opponents to less than 100 rushing yards in 5-of-7 games heading into last week.



Phillip Daniels



Jason Fabini

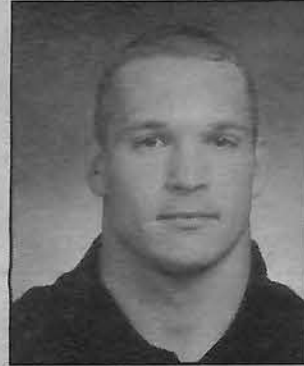
BRIAN URLACHER

vs.

RICHIE ANDERSON

Much like the Buffalo Bills, the Jets use their fullback extensively as a receiver. Anderson led the Jets in receptions with a career-high 48 before last week's game at Miami. At 6-2, 230, Anderson isn't as much of a power fullback as he is a running back playing the position.

A strong candidate for rookie of the year honors, the 22-year-old Urlacher has led the Bears in tackles and sacks throughout most of the season. Urlacher's receiver-like speed is a shock to teams playing him for the first time.



Brian Urlacher



Richie Anderson

WHEN THE BEARS HAVE THE BALL

WHEN THE JETS HAVE THE BALL

WHEN THE BEARS HAVE THE BALL				WHEN THE JETS HAVE THE BALL			
RCB 42 COLEMAN 27 Scott 38 Moreland	FS 21 GREEN 30 Hayes 23 Williams	SS 30 HAYES 47 Frost 23 Williams	LCB 31 GLENN 24 Mickens	RCB 25 SMITH 23 Azumah 26 McMillon	FS 30 BROWN 22 Wooden 47 McElroy	SS 37 PARRISH 29 Smith 43 Green	LCB 27 HARRIS 21 McQuarters
WLB 56 PHIFER 58 Farrior	MLB 55 JONES 54 Gordon	SLB 51 COX 53 Ledyard		WLB 53 HOLDMAN 92 Minter	MLB 54 URLACHER 91 Samuel	SLB 55 HARRIS 59 Colvin	
RE 98 BURTON 91 Eiltz 97 Boose	RT 57 LEWIS 58 Farrior 94 Abraham	LT 72 FERGUSON 93 Logan 73 Anderson	LE 95 LYLE 92 Ellis 97 Boose	RE 93 DANIELS 96 Simmons	RT 97 WELLS 90 Tuinei	LT 99 FLANIGAN 76 Culpepper	LE 98 ROBINSON 95 Wilson
WR 82 KENNISON 86 Booker 83 Brooks	LT 78 BROCKMEYER 74 Herndon	LG 75 PERRY 64 Tucker	C 57 KREUTZ 60 Wiegmann	WR 89 WARD 87 Coles	LT 69 FABINI 76 Elliott 70 Slaughter	LG 71 JENKINS 79 Loverne	C 68 MAWAE 63 Machado
			RG 58 VILLARRIAL 64 Tucker				RG 77 THOMAS 79 Loverne 63 Machado
			RT 71 WILLIAMS 79 Wisne				RT 74 YOUNG 69 Fabini 71 Jenkins
			TE 85 SINCENO 89 Lyman 45 Dragos				TE 88 BECHT 84 Baxter 85 Wiggins 81 Banta
		QB 9 MATTHEWS 11 Hartsell 8 McNown (Inj.)				QB 16 TESTAVERDE 6 Lucas 10 Pennington	
		RB 44 ENIS 32 Barnes	RB 20 ALLEN 24 Milburn			RB 28 MARTIN 34 Parmalee	FB 20 ANDERSON 33 Sowell 37 Moreland
							WR 80 CHREBET 83 Stone 86 Hayes



TALE OF THE TAPE

Chicago Bears
at
New York Jets
(Rankings through Week 11)



OFFENSIVE RANKINGS

TOTAL OFFENSE	20	12
Rushing offense	16 (t)	23
Passing offense	24	8
Total yards per play	22	10
Rushing average	6	24
Passing average	28	11
Percentage had intercepted	20	28
Sacks allowed per pass play	21	1
First downs per game	29	9 (t)
Third down efficiency	28	12
Fourth down efficiency	19	5
Punt return average	23	27
Kickoff return average	19	20
Gross punt average	30	2
Net punt average	26	19
Points per game	29	10
Field goal percentage	19 (t)	25

DEFENSIVE RANKINGS

TOTAL DEFENSE	25	13
Rushing defense	26	18
Passing defense	20	14
Total yards per play	21	13
Rushing average	17	8
Passing average	26	13
Percentage intercepted by	25	15 (t)
Sacks per pass play	21	14
First downs per game	17	15
Third down efficiency	17	29
Fourth down efficiency	27 (t)	20
Punt return average	9	28
Kickoff return average	13	15
Gross punt average	2	3
Net punt average	8	16
Points per game	26	17
Opponents' FG percentage	4 (t)	22

TURN BACK THE CLOCK



As part of every game preview this season in Bear Report, we will take a look back at a memorable game played between the Bears and their upcoming opponent.

Bears rally to stun Jets in OT thriller

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

It wasn't the greatest win in Bears history, but it may have been one of the most improbable. Chicago's thrilling 19-13 overtime victory over the New York Jets at Soldier Field on Monday Night Football Sept. 23, 1991 featured a little bit of everything.

With the Bears trailing 13-6 and seemingly out of hope, Steve McMichael forced and recovered a Blair Thomas fumble at the Jets' 33-yard line with 1:54 left in the fourth quarter. Jim Harbaugh's 6-yard TD pass to Neal Anderson as regulation time expired sent the game into overtime.

The Jets then had a golden opportunity to win it, but 40-year-old veteran Pat Leahy's 28-yard field goal attempt sailed wide left with 3:50 left in the extra session.

The Bears marched down the field and won the game on Harbaugh's 1-yard TD dive. The final score was set up by tight end Cap Boso's 22-yard reception that was initially ruled a touchdown but overturned by replay.

"We might be the luckiest team in the world," said Mike Ditka, who captured his 100th career coaching victory. "It might be divine intervention."

"That was one of the most bizarre games I've ever been involved in," said receiver Tom Waddle, who caught eight passes for 102 yards.

The key play was McMichael's strip of Thomas. Mongo wrapped his arms around the Jets running back, stripped the ball and recovered it to give the Bears new life.

"It was unbelievable; we talked about it in the huddle: Hold 'em up, strip the ball. We've got to make the play!" said middle linebacker Mike Singletary. "And the next play it happened. (McMichael) just took the ball out. That's what we had to have."

The dramatics continued in overtime. Perhaps the most enduring image of the memorable night was that of Boso, celebrating what he thought was the winning touchdown with a huge clump of the Soldier Field turf stuck in his facemask.

Boso was hugging teammates in the tunnel leading to the locker room and Harbaugh was being interviewed near the end zone when officials summoned both teams back to the field after declaring Boso was down at the 1 following a replay reversal.

"I was cussing all the way back to the field,"

BEARS 19, N.Y. Jets 13 (OT)
Sept. 23, 1991
Soldier Field

Boso said.

Harbaugh dove in from the 1 on the next play, but the decision hung in the balance until another replay review confirmed that the Bears had indeed won the game, improving to 4-0 on the season.

"I was over by a good foot," Harbaugh said.

Harbaugh completed 28 of 42 passes for a then-career high 303 yards. He would top the 300-yard plateau only once more as a Bear, passing for 304 yards against Tampa Bay in 1992.

"We might be lucky, but we're also good," said guard Tom Thayer. "Offensively, Jim Harbaugh is getting this team together."

"Jim was the man," Boso said. "He just showed how good a football player he has become."

Soldier Field's Bears Fan Dream Store



CALL FOR...

FREE CATALOG

1-800-551-2965

Visit our website at

www.TDSPORTS.com

**500+ Bears Gift
Items Available**

- Customized Authentic and Replica Jerseys, both home and away
- NFL Pro Line Hats, Jackets, Sweatshirts and Golf Shirts
- Infant and Children's Apparel
- Unique Gift Selection

OPEN DAILY at

GATE 7

Mon.-Fri. 10-4

**Free Parking in Lot #4
(NON gamedays ONLY)**



With Miller out, Bears must turn to McNown

Final games of season a critical evaluation period

MARK POTASH



Jim Miller's injury all but made the Bears' decision for them—it's time to find out if Cade McNown is the Quarterback of the Future or not.

Miller and McNown still could wage a training camp battle for the starting job next summer. But even that possibility has been altered by Miller's season-ending injury—a torn left Achilles' tendon that will require a six- to seven-month rehabilitation.

It remains to be seen just how long Miller will be out. The Jets' Vinny Testaverde suffered the same injury in the season opener last year and missed the rest of the season. He was ready by training camp this year, but he has yet to regain his Pro Bowl form of 1998. His passer rating this season of 71.4 is well below his rating of 101.6 in 1998, though the absence of Keyshawn Johnson probably is a factor as well.

If Miller were healthy and McNown had the season-ending injury, you can be sure the Bears coaching staff would be emphasizing that McNown would be ready for mini-camp, training camp and the 2001 season. But there were no such pronouncements about Miller.

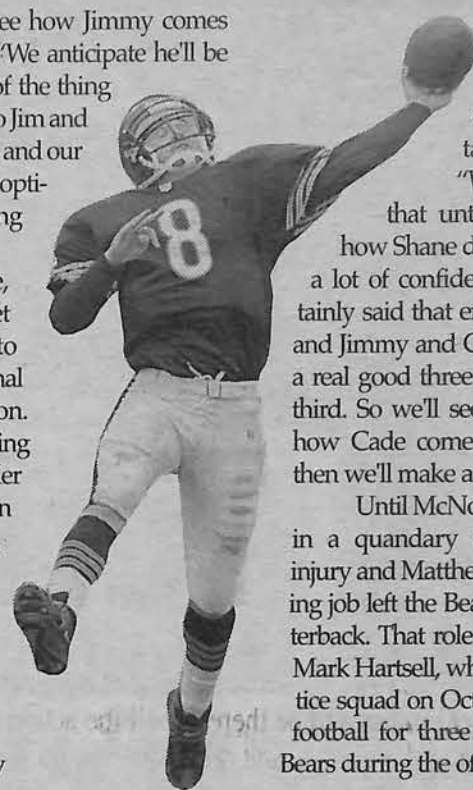
Asked how Miller's injury affects the Bears' long-term plans at quarterback, coach Dick Jauron was typically noncommittal.

"We'll just have to see how Jimmy comes out of it," Jauron said. "We anticipate he'll be healthy and come out of the thing in good shape. Talking to Jim and Tim [trainer Tim Bream] and our doctors, they're all very optimistic about the long term."

In the meantime, McNown figures to get every opportunity to solidify the job in the final month of the season. McNown still is recovering from a separated shoulder he suffered in Philadelphia on Oct. 22. He could be ready to play Sunday against the Jets in the Meadowlands. But the more likely date for McNown's return is Dec. 3 against Green Bay or Dec. 10 against New England. Both games are at home, and it's not known whether that's good or bad for McNown.

Even Miller fans who were happy to let McNown take his time as he recovers probably can't wait for McNown to return now. Shane Matthews is a competent, capable quarterback, but he's not the future. Matthews will be an unrestricted free agent after this season and has indicated he does not plan to return next season—certainly not as the No. 3 quarterback.

So where Miller had a chance to keep the job for the remainder of the season if he played well, Matthews is likely to be replaced as soon



Cade McNown figures to get the chance to solidify the starting quarterback job when he returns from injury.

Photo by Steve Woltmann

as McNown returns to full strength. But Jauron wouldn't even acknowledge that supposed certainty last week.

"We don't have to deal with that until it occurs, so we'll see how Shane does," Jauron said. "I have a lot of confidence in Shane—we've certainly said that enough times. With Shane and Jimmy and Cade, we thought we had a real good three and now we're into our third. So we'll see where Shane goes and how Cade comes along health-wise and then we'll make a decision."

Until McNown returns, the Bears are in a quandary at quarterback. Miller's injury and Matthews' ascension to the starting job left the Bears without a No. 2 quarterback. That role was eventually filled by Mark Hartsell, who was signed to the practice squad on Oct. 25 and had been out of football for three years before joining the Bears during the offseason.

That's how much the talent pool had dwindled in recent years. In 1996, Erik Kramer suffered a season-ending neck injury and the Bears signed Dave Krieg, a three-time Pro Bowl quarterback who was 92-71 as a starter and had thrown 247 touchdown passes.

Krieg started 12 games for the Bears in 1996 and went 6-6 with a passer rating of 76.3. But the best option now is Hartsell, who has not played in an NFL regular-season game.

"It's tough," Bears director of pro personnel Scott Campbell said. "Once the season starts, there are so many teams and everybody has their players, out on the street there's [not a

"Cade is going to be a great quarterback. I'll be the first one to say it. His physical skills are second to none. It's just the mental part of it."
Jim Miller



whole lot out there]. This is kind of the old beggars-can't-be-choosers [situation]."

Miller, 29, already is looking forward to next year. He probably won't be able to go all-out until after the first mini-camp.

"I feel like I'm playing my best football right now," Miller said. "I understand blitzes. I understand what defenses are trying to accomplish and I understand what we're trying to accomplish. I felt extremely confident in running this offense. It's a disappointment. But it's the same old thing. There are highs and lows in everything. You have to persevere."

Ultimately, it all comes down to McNown, who better realize it's a lot closer to now-or-never than maybe he thinks.

"I think the hardest part about people judging Cade," Miller said, "is they look at other people in his class [the 1999 quarterback class] and see the Donovan McNabbs and [Daunte] Culpeppers. You can't compare Cade to them, because this is an entirely different offense. There's a lot more responsibility on you in this offense."

"Cade is going to be a great quarterback. I'll be the first one to say it. His physical skills are second to none. It's just the mental part of it. Once that comes, there's going to be days when everybody's going to go. 'Wow, this kid is turning the corner.' I think we all know he's going to grow up and mature and it's going to make him a better person. He's going to be an outstanding quarterback."

Mark Potash covers the Bears for the Chicago Sun-Times.

Moving?

DON'T FORGET YOUR BEAR REPORT SUBSCRIPTION!
Place the label from your most recent issue here and fill in your new address below.

Mail to: BEAR REPORT, Change of Address
112 Market Street, Sun Prairie, WI 53590

Are you an on-line user also? Enter user ID# here _____

HOOPAD

WHEN DOES MY SUBSCRIPTION EXPIRE?

That's one of the most commonly asked questions we hear at the BEAR REPORT. Here's how you can easily find out the answer!

10052567
is your account number

10052567 0# B DEC00

JOHN Q. PUBLIC
123 KODIE LANE
ANYTOWN, USA 00000

DEC00 — This is your expiration date. Your subscription expires within the month of December 2000.

If you still have questions call us at (608) 837-2200 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. — give us the numbers on your mailing label and we can help!

Subscribe TODAY!



A FIGHT TO THE FINISH



BEARS

Despite their slow start, the Bears are determined to salvage something positive from the 2000 season while also answering questions about the future. Can Jim Miller supplant Cade McNown at quarterback? Is James Allen the answer at running back? Keep up with these critical issues and be there for all the action by subscribing to **BEAR REPORT!** Our comprehensive team coverage will bring you the latest news and features from Halas Hall throughout the offseason, at training camp in Platteville, and at every game so you won't miss a thing.

For just \$39.95, you get 26 action-packed issues of **BEAR REPORT** that will take you inside the huddle, on the sideline, in the locker room, and behind the scenes. You'll get a two-page full color player poster in each issue plus inside news, game coverage, top columnists, features on current and former players, rosters, statistics, game previews, action photos and much, much more. Act now, that's 26 issues for \$39.95 or 52 issues for only \$59.95.

**FOR FASTER AND MORE EFFICIENT DELIVERY ADD-ON AN
ADDITIONAL \$30 FOR FIRST CLASS DELIVERY!**

Mail to: **BEAR REPORT 112 Market Street Sun Prairie, WI 53590**

26 issues for \$39.95 52 issues for \$59.95 ☐ New ☐ Renewal
☐ Foreign Subscribers \$54.95 ☐ \$30 Additional First Class Each Year

Name please print clearly

Address

City State Zip

Payment Form (circle one) Check Money Order VISA MasterCard Discover Card

Card Number Expiration Date

**CHICAGO
BEAR
REPORT**

YES, SIGN ME UP!

HOOPAD



To Subscribe Call **800-728-6501**

GAME STORY

Stingy defense carries Bears to upset win

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

The Tampa Bay Buccaneers won six straight games from the Bears by relying on a big-play pressure defense that both scores touchdowns and prevents them.

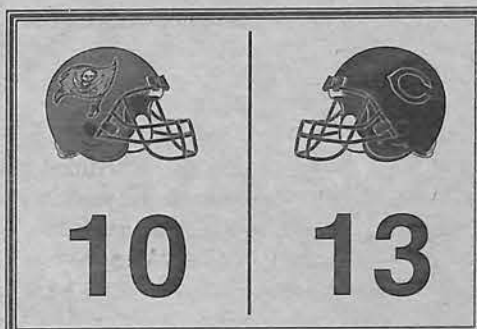
The Bears applied the same formula Sunday at Soldier Field and stormed to a stirring 13-10 upset win over the Bucs. Safety Tony Parrish scored his team's only touchdown on a 38-yard interception return late in the first half and the Bears forced two other key turnovers to end the six-game skid.

The performance by the inspired Chicago (3-8) defense bore little resemblance to the first meeting between the clubs, a 41-0 Bucs route Sept. 10 in Tampa Bay (6-5). It was the third time in four games the Bears defense has allowed just one touchdown.

"We're playing better," said rookie linebacker Brian Urlacher, who should be making his Pro Bowl reservations. "We're starting to figure out where we're supposed to be and we're getting comfortable with each other. We're being more physical. I think that's the main thing right there."

Urlacher delivered the hit of the day and it wasn't even on a ballcarrier. His devastating blindside block on 339-pound tackle Jerry Wunsch provided clear sailing for Parrish down the left sideline on the game's pivotal play.

Urlacher ultimately clinched the victory when he intercepted a Shaun King pass over



the middle at the Bears' 21-yard line with 2:00 left in the game.

"It was a zone and I had the middle read," Urlacher said. "I really couldn't believe he threw it. I just turned around and the ball was right there. It worked out good."

With Cade McNown and Jim Miller felled by injuries, quarterback Shane Matthews made his first start since last Dec. 5 against Green Bay. Matthews completed 20 of 34 passes for 165 yards. Most importantly, he was sacked only once and threw just one interception after being picked off three times a week earlier in Buffalo.

"Offensively, we didn't do a lot, especially with the windy conditions," said Matthews, now 4-4 as a starter. "We just tried to play smart, field position football. They don't give up a lot of big plays. That's the best defense I've ever faced. You don't have much time and there's not a lot of guys open."

That's likely how Tampa Bay's King felt about the Bears. The Bucs' second-year quar-



Photo by Steve Woltmann

Bucs linebacker Derrick Brooks and Bears guard Todd Perry exchange pleasantries during Chicago's 13-10 win Sunday at Soldier Field.

terback completed just 12 of 19 passes for 91 yards. Chicago registered a season-high four sacks and permitted a season-low 10 points. Walt Harris accounted for a third turnover, stripping the ball from Tampa Bay running back Warrick Dunn in the third quarter. Harris also intercepted a pass for the third straight game, but it was nullified by a holding penalty on Thomas Smith.

"Our defense played an outstanding football game," said Bears coach Dick Jauron. "They're getting a better feel of who's around them. It's not just knowing the scheme, it's knowing how the guys play the scheme and what they're going to do in certain situations. It takes time. They played very well."

It started on the game's first possession when Phillip Daniels sacked King on third down, pushing the Bucs out of field goal range.

"We knew we were going to have to hold them to not very many points because their defense is so good," Urlacher said.

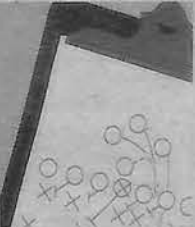
The Bears took a 3-0 lead on Paul Edinger's 34-yard field goal midway through the first quarter. Tampa Bay's Martin Gramatica answered with a 33-yarder to make it 3-3 on the first play of the second quarter.

Late in the half, Parrish then delivered the play of the game. Miscommunication between King and a Bucs receiver resulted in Parrish hauling in the pass without a player within 10 yards of him.

"It looked like it was an option route," he said. "The tight end and the quarterback were both making a read. The tight end broke inside and the quarterback threw it outside. I just sat and waited for the ball and took it to the end

PLAY OF THE GAME

Tony Parrish's 38-yard interception return for a score late in the first half gave the Bears a 10-3 lead and was his team's only TD.



zone."

King capped a 7-play, 53-yard drive with a 9-yard TD run to tie it 10-10 with 9:23 left in the third quarter. Bears rookie safety Mike Brown had King in his grasp in the backfield but failed to get him down.

The Bears ultimately won the game on Edinger's 48-yard field goal with 10:02 remaining in the fourth quarter. The victory was the Bears' second in three games against a 1999 division winner. They beat the Indianapolis Colts 27-24 Nov. 5 at Soldier Field.

"It feels good. Everyone's excited," Urlacher said. "We've been on the other side and it (stinks). We're having fun."

They've been on the other side several times against the Buccaneers, who still haven't permitted an offensive touchdown by the Bears in four games with Jauron as coach.

"It was exciting to play against those guys," Matthews said. "If you want to be the best, you've got to beat the best. They may not have the best defense leading the league in stats, but that's the best defense by far in the league. I just wanted to go out there and play like I can play. I was really upset with myself last week at Buffalo. It just feels good to get a win."

Bears 2000 Schedule

PRESEASON			
Date	Opponent	Bears	Opponent
Sat., Aug. 5	at N.Y. Giants	20	8
Sat., Aug. 12	CLEVELAND BROWNS	19	6
Sat., Aug. 19	at Cincinnati Bengals	20	24
Fri., Aug. 25	TENNESSEE TITANS	28	34
REGULAR SEASON			
Sun., Sept. 3	at Minnesota Vikings	27	30
Sun., Sept. 10	at Tampa Bay Buccaneers	0	41
Sun., Sept. 17	NEW YORK GIANTS	7	14
Sun., Sept. 24	DETROIT LIONS	14	21
Sun., Oct. 1	at Green Bay Packers	27	24
Sun., Oct. 8	NEW ORLEANS SAINTS	10	31
Sun., Oct. 15	MINNESOTA VIKINGS	16	28
Sun., Oct. 22	at Philadelphia Eagles	9	13
Sun., Oct. 29	Bye		
Sun., Nov. 5	INDIANAPOLIS COLTS	27	24
Sun., Nov. 12	at Buffalo Bills	3	20
Sun., Nov. 19	TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS	13	10
Sun., Nov. 26	at N.Y. Jets	Noon	FOX
Sun., Dec. 3	GREEN BAY PACKERS	7:20 p.m.	ESPN
Sun., Dec. 10	NEW ENGLAND PATRIOTS	Noon	CBS
Sun., Dec. 17	at San Francisco 49ers	3:05 p.m.	FOX
Sun., Dec. 24	at Detroit Lions	Noon	FOX

*Central time



Survival and revival

Defense rebounding from early-season slump

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

Walt Harris may be the poster boy for the revival of the Bears' defense, but he isn't the only once-maligned player who's now excelling.

In Sunday's 13-10 upset win over Tampa Bay, Harris forced a fumble and also intercepted a pass for the third straight game, though it was nullified by a penalty. Harris had one interception all of last season. Others, like Brian Urlacher and Tony Parrish, are thriving after surviving preseason demotions.

Urlacher and Parrish each had key interceptions Sunday, with Parrish returning his 38 yards for the Bears' only touchdown.

"In the latter part of the year, we're getting familiar with each other and we're playing pretty good ball," Harris said.

A defense that offered little resistance to the Bucs, Vikings and Saints earlier in the season is suddenly executing like one of the top units in the league. What's the difference?

"Guys are playing with a little more confidence," said defensive coordinator Greg Blache. "Guys are taking some chances they weren't taking before. Success breeds success. You have a little success, guys get a little bit



GAME NOTES

more confident. The mental portion of the game is kicking in.

"We've got guys making plays, and that's the name of the game in the NFL. All the teams are good. Guys that make plays, particularly at the end of ballgames, are going to win them."

One drought continues: Lost in the celebration of Sunday's win is the fact that the Bears extended their streak to 18 quarters without an offensive touchdown against Tampa Bay. The last time they reached the end zone on offense versus the Bucs was Nov. 29, 1998 when Curtis Conway caught a 21-yard TD pass from Moses Moreno.

"With their front four, they (generate) tremendous pressure," said quarterback Shane Matthews. "I got hit about every time I let it go. Our offensive line did a great job. They gave me just enough time to get the (passes) off. It feels good to finally get a win, especially against a team like Tampa."

In three losses to the Bucs since Dick Jauron became head coach, the Bears had eight giveaways and no takeaways. They reversed that trend Sunday, forcing three turnovers and coughing up only one.

"There's a lot of parity in this league," Matthews said. "You've just got to go out and play smart and not turn it over. If you do that, you'll win."

Cold as ice: The Buccaneers are now 0-18 all-time when the game-time temperature is under 40 degrees. It was 37 Sunday at Soldier Field. But Tampa Bay coach Tony Dungy refused to blame the weather for his team's first loss in four games.

"Anyone who talks about the weather really does a disservice to the Bears," Dungy said. "I wouldn't want to taint their victory with any talk about the weather. Conditions were very nice out there and we just didn't get the job done."

"They outplayed us and got the turnovers. Whether it was 30 degrees or 80 degrees, they outplayed us."

Aches & pains: Center Olin Kreutz left the game late in the first half after spraining the MCL in his right knee. He was scheduled to undergo an MRI exam Monday. He sustained a similar injury to his left knee earlier in the season. He was replaced by Casey Wiegmann. ... Running back James Allen (20 carries for 67 yards) suffered a laceration of the webbing between his first and second fingers on his right hand late in the game. Allen was replaced by Marlon Barnes, who rushed for 11 yards on three carries including a 10-yarder on third-and-nine that allowed the Bears to kill the clock. ... Linebacker Warrick Holdman, the Bears' second leading tackler with 87, missed Sunday's game and could be out for the season after tearing cartilage in his left knee last Thursday in practice. Holdman was slated to undergo arthroscopic surgery Monday to determine the extent of his injury. He's expected to miss a minimum of 2-3 weeks but could be out at least three months if further surgery is required. ... The Bucs lost running back Mike Alstott (sprained knee) and safety John Lynch (separated shoulder) to first half injuries.

Briefly: The Bears haven't scored an offensive touchdown since the first half of their 27-24 win over the Indianapolis Colts Nov. 5 at Soldier Field, a span of 10 quarters. Chicago's last two TDs have come on interception returns, by Parrish Sunday and Harris against the Colts. ... Former Bears quarterback Erik Kramer attended Sunday's game. ... The closest the Bears advanced to the end zone Sunday was the Tampa Bay 16-yard line. Incidentally, that was Chicago's only trip inside the 20. The Bears entered the game ranked last in the NFC

INSIDE THE BEARS

Jauron provides a dose of inspiration

Just as he did last season before last season's overtime win at San Diego, Bears coach Dick Jauron delivered a fiery pre-game speech Sunday that both caught his players off guard and inspired them.

While they didn't reveal exactly what was said, Jauron was uncharacteristically emotional in expressing his message.

"I think the biggest thing is that coach Jauron gave us a pretty good pre-game speech right before we went out," said running back James Allen. "We've never really seen him get that excited. I mean, he gets excited, but he really pushed the button (Sunday)."

Jauron doesn't have to raise his voice like he did Sunday to get his players' attention.

"I think all of his words are very weighted," said defensive tackle Mike Wells. "He's a kind of quiet guy. I always listen to his speeches and he always speaks well-thought out words. He always has a message in his speeches."

— Larry Mayer

with just 17 red-zone trips in 10 games. ... Paul Edinger made his ninth straight field goal, a 34-yarder, before his streak ended with a 38-yard miss. Edinger eventually provided the winning points on a 48-yarder. He is now 14 of 19 on the season. ... The longest play from scrimmage the Bears allowed Sunday was a 19-yard run on a fake punt by upback Rabbih Abdullah. ... Marcus Robinson led the Bears with five receptions for 53 yards. He has one 100-yard game this season after registering five games with 136 or more yards last year. ... All three of the Bears' victories this season have come by three points. Their eight losses have been by an average of 14 points.



Photo by Steve Woltmann

Despite constant pressure, Shane Matthews was only sacked once in Sunday's win over the Buccaneers.

NFL RESULTS

WEEK 12

Bye: Seattle

Sunday, Nov. 19

Bears 13, Tampa Bay 10

Philadelphia 34, Arizona 9

Buffalo 21, Kansas City 17

Minnesota 31, Carolina 17

New England 16, Cincinnati 13

Tennessee 24, Cleveland 10

Detroit 31, N.Y. Giants 21

Oakland 31, New Orleans 22

Green Bay 26, Indianapolis 24

Denver 38, San Diego 37

N.Y. Jets 20, Miami 3

Baltimore 27, Dallas 0

San Francisco 16, Atlanta 6

Jacksonville 34, Pittsburgh 24

Monday, Nov. 20

Washington at St. Louis, 8 p.m.

WEEK 13

Bye: San Francisco

Thursday, Nov. 23

New England at Detroit, 11:30 a.m.

Minnesota at Dallas, 3:05 p.m.

Sunday, Nov. 26

BEARS at N.Y. Jets, noon

Buffalo at Tampa Bay, noon

Cleveland at Baltimore, noon

Miami at Indianapolis, noon

New Orleans at St. Louis, noon

Philadelphia at Washington, noon

Pittsburgh at Cincinnati, noon

Atlanta at Oakland, 3:05 p.m.

Tennessee at Jacksonville, 3:15 p.m.

Denver at Seattle, 3:15 p.m.

Kansas City at San Diego, 3:15 p.m.

N.Y. Giants at Arizona, 7:20 p.m.

Monday, Nov. 27

Green Bay at Carolina, 8 p.m.

2000 NFL STANDINGS

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Philadelphia	8	4	0	.667	264	179
N.Y. Giants	7	4	0	.636	213	184
Washington	6	4	0	.600	185	158
Dallas	4	7	0	.364	227	246
Arizona	3	8	0	.273	170	311

Central Division

Minnesota	9	2	0	.818	279	235
Detroit	7	4	0	.636	213	218
Tampa Bay	6	5	0	.545	262	180
Packers	5	6	0	.455	235	231
BEARS	3	8	0	.273	153	256

Western Division

St. Louis	8	2	0	.800	392	303
New Orleans	7	4	0	.636	225	183
Carolina	4	7	0	.364	210	204
San Francisco	4	8	0	.364	290	336
Atlanta	3	9	0	.250	192	306

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

Eastern Division

	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
Miami	8	3	0	.727	220	146
Buffalo	7	4	0	.636	220	206
Indianapolis	7	4	0	.636	303	239
N.Y. Jets	7	4	0	.636	243	219
New England	3	8	0	.273	183	219

Central Division

Tennessee	9	2	0	.818	228	159
Baltimore	8	4	0	.667	218	128
Pittsburgh	5	6	0	.455	184	153
Jacksonville	4	7	0	.364	220	259
Cleveland	3	9	0	.250	130	268
Cincinnati	2	9	0	.182	106	233

Western Division

Oakland	9	2	0	.818	311	221
Denver	7	4	0	.636	333	262
Kansas City	5	6	0	.455	267	257
Seattle	4	7	0	.364	185	260
San Diego	0	11	0	.000	189	291

SCORING SUMMARY

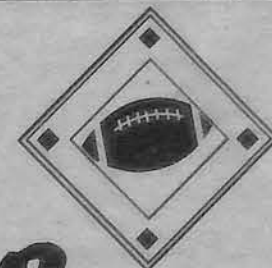
Chicago Bears.....	3	7	0	3	13
Tampa Bay Buccaneers.....	0	3	7	0	10
Bears, 1, 5:58, Edinger 34-yard field goal (7-24, 1:33) 0-3					
Bucs, 2, 14:55, Gramatica 33-yard field goal (11-55, 6:03) 3-3					
Bears, 2, 0:48, Parrish 38-yard interception return (Edinger kick) 3-10					
Bucs, 3, 9:23, King 9-ard run (Gramatica kick) (7-53, 4:11) 10-10					
Bears, 4, 10:02, Edinger 48-yard field goal (9-33, 5:15) 10-13					
Paid attendance: 66,955; time: 2:51					

FINAL TEAM STATISTICS

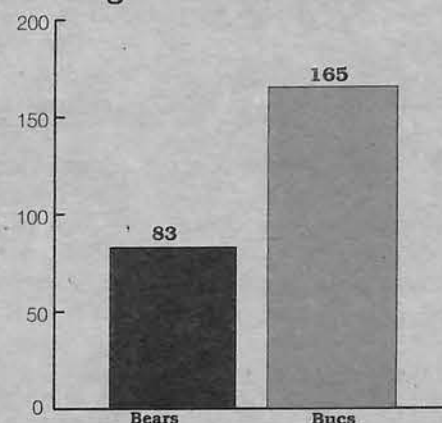
	Bucs	Bears
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	14	15
By Rushing	8	5
By Passing	5	9
By Penalty	1	1
THIRD DOWN EFFICIENCY	3-11-27%	5-15-33%
FOURTH DOWN EFFICIENCY	1-2-50%	0-1-0%
TOTAL NET YARDS	225	243
Total Offensive Plays (inc. time thrown passing)	56	63
Average gain per offensive play	4.0	3.9
NET YARDS RUSHING	165	83
Total Rushing Plays	33	28
Average gain per rushing play	5.0	3.0
Tackles for a loss - number and yards	3-5	3-4
NET YARDS PASSING	60	160
Times thrown — yards lost attempting to pass	4-31	1-5
Gross yards passing	91	165
PASS ATTEMPTS-COMPLETIONS-HAD INT.	19-12-2	34-20-1
Average gain per pass play (inc. # thrown passing)	2.6	4.6
KICKOFFS-In End Zone-Touchbacks	3-1-0	4-0-0
PUNTS Number and Average	5-33.2	5-33.4
Had Blocked	0	0
FGs-PATs Had Blocked	0-0	0-0
Net punting average	29.2	28.2
TOTAL RETURN YARDAGE (Not Including Kickoffs)	6	57
No. and Yards Punt Returns	1-6	0-0
No. and Yards Kickoff Returns	4-93	3-80
No. and Yards Interception Returns	1-0	2-57
PENALTIES Number and Yards	1-8	4-25
FUMBLES Number and Lost	1-1	0-0
TOUCHDOWNS	1	1
Rushing	1	0
Passing	0	0
Fumbles	0	1
EXTRA POINTS Made-Attempts	1-1	1-1
FIELD GOALS Made-Attempts	1-1	2-3
SAFETIES	0	0
FINAL SCORE	10	13
TIME OF POSSESSION	29:52	30:08



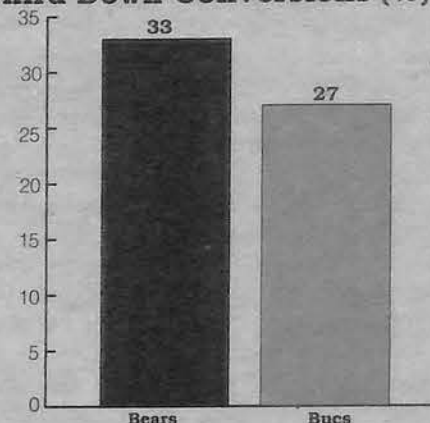
GAME STATISTICS



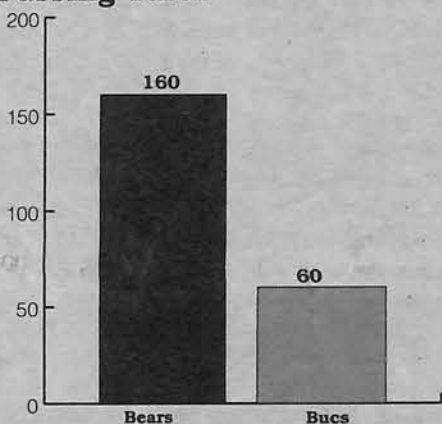
Rushing Yards



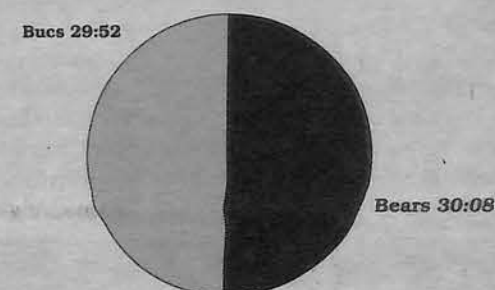
Third Down Conversions (%)



Passing Yards



Time of Possession



TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

CHICAGO BEARS					
RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Allen	20	67	3.4	17	0
Barnes	3	11	3.7	10	0
Matthews	4	5	1.3	8	0
Enis	1	0	0.0	0	0

PASSING	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	TKD/Yd.	TD	LG	Had Int.
Matthews	34	20	165	1/5	0	22	1

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Robinson	5	53	10.6	21	0
Kennison	4	54	13.5	22	0
Allen	4	15	3.8	4	0
Brooks	3	16	5.3	6	0
Enis	2	11	5.5	11	0
Sinceno	1	9	9.0	9	0
Booker	1	7	7.0	7	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Parrish	1	38	38	1
Urlacher	1	19	19	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Aguiar	5	167	33.4	1	1	43

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Milburn	0	2	0	0	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Milburn	3	0	80	36	0

RUSHING	Att.	Net Yds.	Avg.	Long Gain	TD
Dunn	17	75	4.4	15	0
King	11	72	6.5	14	1
Abdullah	2	18	9.0	19	0
Alstott	2	3	1.5	3	0
Green	1	-3	-3.0	-3	0

PASSING	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	TKD/Yd.	TD	LG	Had Int.
King	19	12	91	4/31	0	14	2

PASS RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	LG	TD
Green	3	30	10.0	14	0
Moore	2	25	12.5	13	0
Johnson	2	13	6.5	9	0
Dunn	2	1	0.5	6	0
Anthony	1	11	11.0	11	0
Hape	1	6	6.0	6	0
Alstott	1	5	5.0	5	0

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	LG	TD
Robinson	1	0	0	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	TB	In 20	LG
Royals	5	166	33.2	1	1	41

PUNT RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Williams	1	1	6	6	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	FC	Yds.	LG	TD
Stecker	4	0	93	48	0

CHICAGO BEARS

Unofficial									
T	Ast.	Sack	Yrds.	Int.	PD	FF	FR		
Smith	6	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Urlacher	6	0	0.0	0.0	1	1	0	0	0
Parrish	5	0	1.0	9.0	1	1	0	0	0
Harris	4	1	0.0	0.0	0	1	1	0	0
Robinson	4	1	1.0	5.0	0	1	0	0	0
Colvin	3	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
S. Harris	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Daniels	3	0	1.0	10.0	0	0	0	0	0
Flanigan	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Smith	3	0	1.0	7.0	0	0	0	0	0
Azumah	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Brown	2	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
McQuarters	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Simmons	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	1
Wells	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0

TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS

Unofficial									
T	Ast.	Sack	Yrds.	Int.	PD	FF	FR		
Brooks	12	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Barber	5	2	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Robinson	4	2	0.0	0.0	1	1	0	0	0
Duncan	5	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Jackson	4	1	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Kelly	4	0	0.0	0.0	0	1	0	0	0
Sapp	3	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Abraham	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Ahanotu	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Jones	1	0	1.0	5.0	0	0	0	0	0
Lynch	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
McFarland	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Quarles	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Singleton	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
Webster	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0
White	1	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0	0

Bears' defense star of impressive show

DOUG BUFFONE



With their top two quarterbacks injured and the uncertainty swirling around the Gary Crowton situation, the Bears easily could have rolled over and played dead Sunday against Tampa Bay.

Instead, they went out and played a very good football game. On defense, they did a particularly excellent job. They got big plays all throughout the game.

I really thought it was an outstanding game plan by the coaches. Greg Blache did a good job of juggling the defense to give different looks to Shaun King and he picked the right times to blitz.

It was great to see that so many different guys made big plays during the course of the game. We're talking about Tony Parrish's interception for a touchdown and a big sack by Parrish late in the game; Brian Urlacher's clinching interception; Walt Harris's forced fumble—the Bears played up to the defensive level of the Bucs! By the way, Urlacher is on his way to the Pro Bowl.

Thomas Smith played outstanding against the run, especially on a reverse where he stuffed Jacquez Green behind the line of scrimmage.

The defensive backs covered their receivers to the point where King had to run from the pocket because he had nobody to throw the ball to.

King may have had 72 yards rushing, but that was because he couldn't find anybody to throw the ball to. Keyshawn Johnson had only two receptions for 13 yards and that was key in shutting down the Bucs.

The only snag was the fake punt and I don't know what happened there. It took a lot of guts for Tony Dungy to call that play from as deep as the Bucs were in their own territory. They must have seen something in the Bears' punt returns, otherwise they never would have run



Photo by Steve Woltmann

James Allen hit the hole with power in gaining 67 yards on 20 carries in Sunday's 13-10 win over Tampa Bay. that. Sometimes you get lax on defense and expect a punt every time.

But the defense came back later on that drive when Harris caused the fumble and Clyde Simmons recovered.

On offense, Shane Matthews got sacked once, but all-in-all the offensive line did a good job against Warren Sapp by not letting him cause too much pressure. James Allen was hitting the hole extremely hard without hesita-

Trivia Trove



Which Bear holds the record for the longest run at Soldier Field?

(Answer on page 19)

tion.

Matthews may not have led the Bears to a touchdown but he did what you have to do to beat the Bucs—he took care of the ball.

The only way the Bucs can beat you, the way I see, is you have to give them the turnovers. And that's what the Bears did against them in Week 2. The turnovers in the 41-0 rout happened when the Bears were backed up in their own territory, so it was easy for Tampa to score. Tampa lives on the turnover and that sets up their offense.

Matthews gave them one turnover but that one occurred on an interception back on Tampa's own 10-yard line. The Bucs didn't get any gimmes where their offense only had a short field to try to score. They had to sustain long drives to make anything happen and the Bears defense didn't allow that to happen.

I didn't like the fact that there were about three dropped balls. I don't know what the heck that's all about, but it goes back to the beginning of the year when Cade McNown was in there, so you can't blame that on Matthews.

Doug Buffone hosts the Doug Buffone Sports Magazine Sundays on Fox Sports Chicago.

CHECK US OUT!

SPORTS plus.com

Your Official Site
For Sports And Fun

WEEKLY TRIVIA

IN DEPTH LEAGUE REPORTS

DAILY SPORTS HEADLINES

QUALIFY FOR PRIZES WITH EACH VISIT

EXCLUSIVE ONLINE FAN STORE

SAVE 10%

WITH YOUR VIP FAN CLUB
CARD MEMBERSHIP

Order online and enter
BEAR3499 for discount

THE PERFECT GIFT FOR YOUR NFL FAN for any NFL football team!!!

When it comes to professional football, there's only one place you need to turn . . . the **Professional Football Publication Association**. We are experts with colorful, action-packed issues and easy-to-use (900) telephone services. Call today for subscription or advertising information and get the latest scoop on your favorite team by calling the special hotline numbers.

PFFA Member Publication

BEAR REPORT
BENGALS REPORT
BUFFALO BILLS SHOUT!
BROWNS NEWS/ILLUSTRATED
BUCCANEER MAGAZINE
CHIEFS REPORT
DOLPHIN DIGEST
EAGLES DIGEST
49ERS REPORT
GIANT INSIDER
JAGUARS INSIDE REPORT
JETS CONFIDENTIAL
LIONS REPORT
PACKER REPORT
PATRIOTS FOOTBALL WEEKLY
RAIDERS SILVER & BLACK ILL.
RAMS UPDATE
SAINTS DIGEST
REDSKINS (WARPATH)
STEELERS DIGEST
TITANS EXCLUSIVE
VIKING UPDATE

Subscriptions & Advertising

1-800-728-6501
(513) 941-9021
1-800-932-4557
1-888-826-1264
1-800-881-2827
1-877-424-4337
1-800-334-4005
1-800-334-4005
1-800-932-4557
1-800-932-4557
1-888-8GO-JAGS
1-800-932-4557
1-800-310-7047
1-800-728-6501
1-800-494-PATS
1-800-932-4557
1-800-578-2624
1-800-334-4005
1-800-932-4557
1-800-334-4005
1-888-621-3267
1-800-256-7110

Hotline

1-900-860-6400
1-900-903-BILLS

1-900-860-1972
1-900-860-1992
1-900-370-49ER
1-900-88-GIANT

1-900-420-JETS
1-900-860-4229

1-900-820-1983

1-900-407-7546
1-900-860-1974

1-900-860-0075

THE PERFECT GIFT FOR YOUR
FAVORITE BEAR FAN...

BEAR REPORT

Special BONUS OFFER!

Act Now, and we will send a gift card in
your name announcing your gift AND, a
FREE Bear Growl Towel! TWO GIFTS in ONE!

QUANTITIES ARE LIMITED



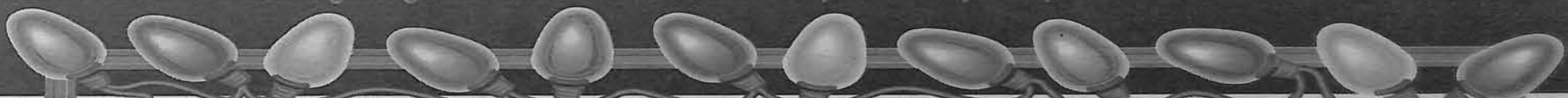
TO ORDER CALL
1-800-728-6501

BEAR REPORT will be delivered 26 times (each week during the season plus special draft and off-season issues) to that special Bear fan to make them the most informed fan imaginable! Each issue includes:

- ▶ Insightful columns including former Bear great Doug Buffone
- ▶ In-depth Game Previews & Reviews
- ▶ Action Photos
- ▶ Individual & Team Stats
- ▶ Letters From Fans
- ▶ Player Features ▶ And Much, Much More...



BEAR REPORT makes a great gift for someone near or far away! Choose your option below...we'll take care of the rest!



Fill out and mail to: Bear Report, 112 Market St., Sun Prairie, WI 53590 • E-mail: proyle@royle.com • Fax (608) 825-3053 • Toll Free 800-728-6501

PLEASE SEND ME:

- ☐ (26 Issues) of Bear Report for only \$39.95. ☐ New ☐ Renewal \$ _____
- ☐ With First Class Delivery Football Season (16 Issues) — \$58.00
- ☐ With First Class Delivery Entire Season (26 Issues) — \$69.95
- ☐ _____ (26 Issues) gift subscription(s) of Bear for only \$39.95 each to the individual(s) listed on the coupon to the right \$ _____
- ☐ (52 Issues) of Bear for only \$59.95 ☐ New ☐ Renewal \$ _____
- ☐ With First Class Delivery (52 Issues) — \$119.95 \$ _____
- TOTAL \$ _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS:

- ☐ Check or money order payable to Bear Report is enclosed: ☐ Bill Me
- ☐ Credit card payment: ☐ VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐ Discover Card
- Card # _____ Exp. Date _____

MY NAME AND ADDRESS: ☐ I want future renewal notices sent to me.

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

PERSON TO RECEIVE GIFT SUBSCRIPTION:

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

This gift is from _____

Name: _____ Phone: () _____

Address: _____ E-mail: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

This gift is from _____

To receive by Christmas must be received by Dec. 18, 2000

HOOXMAS

Bears reveal stadium plan

\$587 million proposal still requires legislative approval

By Larry Mayer
Managing Editor

The Bears are one step closer to replacing their aging stadium with a glitzy new football palace, but legislative approval is still required for the \$587 million Soldier Field renovation plan that was announced jointly by the city and the team last Wednesday.

The proposal essentially calls for the gutting of Soldier Field while saving only the historic colonnades on the outside of the stadium. A state-of-the-art facility would be built inside those walls, featuring two 84-foot-long video scoreboards, 133 skybox suites and 8,600 luxury "club" seats.

"The bottom line is the new Soldier Field will have all the best features of a modern stadium, including a year-round restaurant and a banquet hall for special events," said Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley. "At the same time, we will not lose the charm and dignity of this distinguished stadium. On the contrary, we will enhance it."

Under the project's financing plan, \$100 million would come from the Bears, another \$100 million from an NFL loan, and the rest from 30-year bonds which would be retired with proceeds of an existing two percent tax on hotel bills in Chicago. The state legislature

must pass a law to empower the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority to issue \$387 million in new bonds and permit the proceeds to be used for Soldier Field.

A portion of the Bears' contribution will be raised through the selling of personal seat licenses (PSLs). About half of the 63,000 seats will be subject to the PSLs, which will cost Bears fans a projected average of \$2,000 just for the right to buy their season tickets. PSLs have been implemented in several NFL stadium projects across the country such as Cincinnati, St. Louis and Charlotte. Other NFL teams that have sold PSLs to finance stadium projects include the Browns, Titans, Ravens, Steelers, Raiders and Cowboys.

"Ultimately, I truly believe when the final plan is unveiled and PSLs are announced, it will receive fine acceptance," said Bears president Ted Phillips. "Every stadium that ever had a PSL plan, the initial reaction is outrage. But every plan other than Oakland, which was handled poorly, has been a success and has been critical in funding."

Phillips also revealed that the Bears are seeking a corporate sponsor whose name would appear on the stadium in some way, though Soldier Field will not be dropped from the title. For example, the name could be Bear Report Stadium at Soldier Field. Under the

agreement, the Bears would sign a 30-year lease at Soldier Field. They have played at the lakefront stadium since 1971. Soldier Field was completed in 1924.

The renovation plan calls for work to begin immediately after the 2001 season with the new stadium ready to open for the 2003 campaign. That means the Bears will have to find an alternate home in 2002. Possibilities include Northwestern University in Evanston, the University of Illinois in Champaign, and the University of Notre Dame in South Bend, Ind. The team is opposed to splitting its home schedule between multiple sites, however.

Approximately \$365 million would be spent on the stadium itself with the remainder going toward the adjacent museum campus area, including two parking garages; 19 acres of new park land reclaimed from an old parking area; a new access road at Lake Shore Drive; and a sledding hill.

Under the proposal, skyboxes would soar 30 feet above the old colonnade on the east side of the stadium. On the west side, an upper deck would rise even higher. That would result in 60 percent of the seats being situated between the sidelines as opposed to just 40 percent now. Four levels of skyboxes would be built on the west side of the stadium with no luxury suites on the east side.

Bears coach, players optimistic about new Soldier Field proposal

Bears head coach Dick Jauron expressed cautious optimism about the franchise's \$587 million plan to completely overhaul Soldier Field. The proposal won't become reality until after it receives legislative approval.

"The announcement is good news for the organization, our fans, the football team and hopefully for the city of Chicago," Jauron said. "But we understand it's just the beginning of a phase of events that have to occur for it to happen. We'll keep watching that. We're very optimistic about the announcement. It sounds like a great plan for the whole lakefront area."

Quarterback Shane Matthews, who likely won't be with the Bears when the new stadium is slated to open in 2003, nevertheless hopes the Soldier Field plan takes shape.

"It needs some renovation, but it's a great stadium," Matthews said. "I think it was Blake Brockermeyer and I talking, 10-15 years from now, a lot of these stadiums we're playing in won't be around. Hopefully they can renovate it because it's a great historical stadium."

— Larry Mayer

BEARS SEASON STATISTICS

WON 2, LOST 8

Date	Opponent	Attendance
Sept. 3, L, 27-30	at Minnesota	64,104
Sept. 10, L, 0-41	at Tampa Bay	65,569
Sept. 17, L, 7-14	N.Y. Giant	66,944
Sept. 24, L, 14-21	Detroit	66,944
Oct. 1, W, 27-24	at Green Bay	59,869
Oct. 8, L, 10-31	New Orleans	66,944
Oct. 15, L, 16-28	Minnesota	66,944
Oct. 22, L, 9-13	at Philadelphia	65,553
Nov. 5, W, 27-24	Indianapolis	66,944
Nov. 12, L, 3-20	at Buffalo	72,420

	Bears	Opponents
TOTAL FIRST DOWNS	150	190
Rushing	58	79
Passing	87	97
Penalty	5	14
3rd Down: Made/Att	42/139	52/141
3rd Down Pct.	30.2	36.9
4th Down: Made/Att	7/15	8/11
4th Down Pct.	46.7	72.7
POSSESSION AVG.	28:26	31:35
TOTAL NET YARDS	3006	3487
Avg. Per Game	300.6	348.7
Total Plays	628	648
Avg. Per Play	4.8	5.4
NET YARDS RUSHING	1168	1307
Avg. Per Game	116.8	130.7
Total Rushes	253	310
NET YARDS PASSING	1838	2180
Avg. Per Game	183.8	218.0
Sacked/Yards Lost	28/126	19/126
Gross Yards	2014	2306
Att./Completions	347/199	319/200
Completion Pct.	57.3	62.7
Had Intercepted	12	7
PUNTS/AVERAGE	61/37.6	54/40.0
NET PUNTING AVG.	61/33.6	54/34.2
PENALTIES/YARDS	64/508	47/467
FUMBLES/BALL LOST	19/7	13/6
TOUCHDOWNS	15	30
Rushing	5	11
Passing	8	17
Returns	2	2

SCORE BY PERIODS	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	OT	PTS
TEAM	40	36	35	29	0	140
OPPONENTS	23	77	67	79	0	246

SCORING	TD	RU	PA	RT	K-PAT.	FG	S	PTS
Edinger	0	0	0	0	14/14	12/16	0	50
M. Robinson	5	0	5	0	-	-	0	30
McNown	3	3	0	0	-	-	0	18
Allen	1	1	0	0	-	-	0	6
Allred	1	0	1	0	-	-	0	6
Brown	1	0	0	1	-	-	0	6
Enis	1	1	0	0	-	-	0	6
W. Harris	1	0	0	1	-	-	0	6
Kennison	1	0	1	0	-	-	0	6
White	1	0	1	0	-	-	0	6
TEAM	15	5	8	2	14/14	12/16	0	140
OPPONENTS	30	11	17	2	28/28	12/18	0	246

2-Pt. Conversions: Team 0-1, Opponents 1-2
Sacks: Urlacher 6.0, Daniels 5.0, Flanigan 3.0, Colvin 1.0, B. Robinson 1.0, F. Smith 1.0, Wells 1.0, Wilson 1.0, TEAM 19.0, OPPONENTS 28.0

RUSHING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Allen	153	651	4.3	29	1
McNown	47	320	6.8	30	3
Enis	34	82	2.4	111	1
Kennison	2	75	37.5	52	0
Barnes	6	26	4.3	6	0
M. Robinson	1	9	9.0	9	0
Matthews	1	5	5.0	5	0
J. Miller	7	5	0.7	3	0
Engram	1	1	1.0	1	0
Booker	1	-6	-6.0	-6	0
TEAM	253	1168	4.6	52	5
OPPONENTS	310	1307	4.2	72t	11

RECEIVING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
M. Robinson	49	688	14.0	68t	5
Kennison	35	326	9.3	26	1
Booker	26	247	9.5	25	0
Brooks	20	172	8.6	27	0
Engram	16	109	6.8	25	0
Allen	15	109	7.3	17	0
Allred	9	109	12.1	25	1
Sinceno (LG)	11	90	8.2	12	0
Sinceno (TM)	11	90	8.2	12	0
Allred	9	109	12.1	25	1
Enis	5	47	9.4	18	0
White	5	42	8.4	25t	1
Mayes (TM)	4	40	10.0	19	0
Bates	2	18	9.0	18	0
Wells	1	13	13.0	13	0
Drago	1	4	4.0	4	0

TEAM	199	2014	10.1	68t	8
OPPONENTS	200	2306	11.5	66	17

INTERCEPTIONS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Parrish	2	43	21.5	36	0
W. Harris	2	35	17.5	35t	1
Brown	1	35	35.0	35t	1
Azumah	1	2	2.0	2	0
Urlacher	1	0	0.0	0	0
TEAM	7	115	16.4	36	2
OPPONENTS	12	103	8.6	30	0

PUNTING	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Net	TB	In	Lg	B
Bartholomew	44	1607	36.5	32.2	3	12	52	0
Aguiar	17	688	40.5	37.4	0	4	49	0
TEAM	61	2295	37.6	33.6	3	16	52	0
OPP.	54	2162	40.0	34.2	7	14	59	0

PUNT RETURNS	Ret.	FC	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Milburn	22	13	162	7.4	25	0
W. Harris	1	1	14	14.0	14	0
TEAM	23	14	176	7.7	25	0
OPPONENTS	23	22	183	8.0	25	0

KICKOFF RETURNS	No.	Yds.	Avg.	Long	TD
Milburn	42	966	23.0	38	0
Enis	2	30	15.0	19	0
Sinceno LG	1	12	12.0	12	0
Sinceno TM	1	12	12.0	12	0
Tucker	1	0	0.0	0	0
TEAM	46	1008	21.9	38	0
OPPONENTS	31	682	22.0	38	0

FIELD GOALS	1-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50+
Edinger	1/1	4/4	3/4	4/7	0/0
TEAM	1/1	4/4	3/4	4/7	0/0
OPPONENTS	1/1	3/3	2/6	5/6	1/2
Edinger: (29G, 49G) (42N) (49N) (1) (19G, 42N, 47G) (30N, 38G) (22G) (25G, 33G, 40G) (41G, 37G) (24G)					
Opponents: (35G, 38G, 45G) (50N, 23G, 47G) (34N, 41B, 31B) (32B) (42G) (44G) (1) (51G, 29G) (19G) (27G, 42G, 39N)					

PASSING	Att.	Cmp.	Yds.	TD	Int.	LG	Rating
McNown	240	140	1513	7	8	68t	72.8
J. Miller	82	47	382	1	1	34t	68.2
Matthews	24	11	106	0	3	26	19.1
Aguiar	1	1	13	0	0	13	118.8
TEAM	347	199	2014	8	12	68t	67.3
OPP.	319	200	2306	17	7	66	93.1



A concrete decision

BOB LeGERE



Hartsell still chasing his dream

cially a guy like Jim. But things happen. That's part of football."

When Miller suffered a torn Achilles' tendon on Nov. 12 against the Bills, Hartsell was promoted from the practice squad to the active roster, becoming the top backup to Matthews for the Bucs game the following week.

At home watching the Bills game with fellow practice squad members Dustin Cohen and Brian Edwards, Hartsell viewed Miller's injury with mixed emotions.

"I didn't want to see that happen, I really didn't," said the Boston College product who was out of football for more than two years before offensive coordinator Gary Crowton talked him into joining the Bears last off-season. "But I knew I would probably get the opportunity to be activated."

McNown isn't expected to be ready to play until the Nov. 26 Jets game at the earliest, leaving Matthews and Hartsell as the only healthy bodies for the Bucs game and maybe longer.

"We'd like to have a young guy we think has a lot of upside to him and has the skills, and we think Mark fits that category," coach Dick Jauron said when asked about the possibility of bringing in an older free agent. "He's big and strong, he's mobile, he's smart. He just doesn't have any experience."

Hartsell will pick up some NFL experience practicing the next couple weeks. If nothing else, it's a foot in the door, which is all the 6-foot-4, 225-pounder was looking for when he agreed to give the NFL one final opportunity.

"I left here (after being released just before the start of the season) saying I'm going to give it another shot, and if nothing breaks during the year, hopefully I'll get into an NFL camp somewhere and give it one more shot (next summer)," Hartsell said. "I gave myself to the final cut next year, and if nothing happens, then I'll get on with my life."

"Who knows what's going to happen, as long as you keep on playing and stay in the loop."

It's unlikely Hartsell will get much practice time with the first team, since most of that will be devoted to a cram session for Matthews, who has had precious little time to work with the No. 1 unit. With Miller trying to get up to speed after McNown's injury, Matthews ran most of the scout team plays, impersonating the opponent's offense each week. It's a job that fell to Hartsell once Matthews became the starter. That's still an improvement over his first couple of weeks with the team.

"It's hard to get repetitions because Jim only had a couple weeks to get ready, so they (were) going to give him all the reps as the No. 1 guy," Hartsell said. "And to keep Shane in the loop and get his rhythm going, he takes all the scout team reps. So I'm just basically watching and taking mental reps."

But Hartsell understands there wasn't time for him to get much more than a crash course in running the Bears' offense with Matthews'



Photo by Steve Woltmann

Mark Hartsell was one of five Bear QBs in training camp this summer.

preparation taking precedence over his practice time.

"I don't think they can because they have to prepare Shane to play the whole game," Hartsell said. "He's got to be ready because Shane hasn't taken many reps the whole year. This is his first opportunity. It's one of the toughest positions in all of sports, and it makes it even harder when you don't practice a lot. It's tough, but watching film is really important and getting yourself mentally prepared is all you can do."

Doing it on the active roster of an NFL team, just one play away from live action, even if it's only for a short time, has made Hartsell's return worthwhile.

Bob LeGere covers the Bears for the Daily Herald.

Seeing former backups Jim Miller and Shane Matthews get their opportunities to become starters just two weeks apart after a half-season of inactivity made former pharmaceutical salesman Mark Hartsell realize he made the right choice in giving the NFL one more shot.

"You never know what's going to happen," said Hartsell, who was released by the Bears in the preseason and was helping a friend install driveways before he was signed to the practice squad Oct. 25.

Hartsell was summoned back to Chicago after Cade McNown suffered a separated left shoulder on Oct. 22 in Philadelphia.

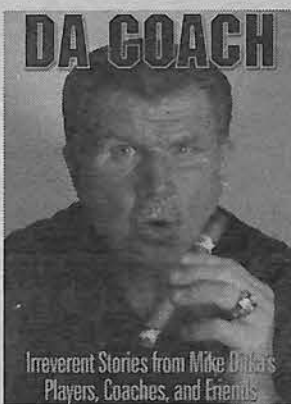
"Now all of a sudden I could possibly be one play away from playing," Hartsell said. "You never want to see people get hurt, espe-

You May Love Him, You May Hate Him...

But whatever you think of Da Coach, you know he ducks no punches.

Tough, no-holds-barred stories told by Ditka's drinking buddies, combative players, loyal teammates, friends and fans, show Da Coach through the eyes of the people closest to him.

Da Coach celebrates the life and colorful times of a true sports original who has it all—guts, glory, and personality to spare.



"If you look at the Bear logo and a picture of him, there's not much difference. He's a human being in a bear's hat."

--Mike North



"Ditka came into the locker room and started pounding on an equipment locker. All of a sudden, he looked up at the trainer and said, 'I think I broke my hand.' He had. We didn't know whether to laugh or cry."--Jim McMahon



6 x 9 • 240 pages • b/w photographs throughout • \$19.95 cloth
To Order By Phone Call: 1-800-335-5323, quoting order code DK. All major credit cards accepted.
Or Send Check Payable To: Triumph Books, 601 South LaSalle Street, Suite 500, Chicago, IL 60605
Please include \$5.95 for shipping and handling.
Fax Orders Accepted At: 1-312-663-3557



"He's big and strong, he's mobile, he's smart. He just doesn't have any experience."
Dick Jauron on Mark Hartsell

THE BEARS-PACKERS SHOWDOWN RADIO SHOW

Insanity, hilarity, stupidity...and terrific coverage of the NFL's greatest rivalry!

Green Bay/Appleton	WJOK	1050 AM	Friday, 4 PM
Wausau	WXCO	1230 AM	Saturday, 11 PM
Quad Cities, IA/IL	KJOC	1170 AM	Sunday, 9:30 AM
Waukegan/Chicago	WKRS	1220 AM	Thursday, 6 PM

Now heard 24/7 at <http://internetFM.com>



VIEWPOINT

P.O. BOX 4205, ARLINGTON HEIGHTS, IL 60006



No way Bears are better

As a life-long Bears fan, I was so amused by the story on page 18 of the Oct. 28 edition of the Bear Report that I felt I must respond. In the article, Dick Jauron states that the 2000 Bears are better than the 1999 Bears.

Let's see, 2-8 vs. 6-10, 20th on offense vs. eighth in offense, and on and on.

The real problem may not be the stats but maybe the game plan and players not playing within the system. One example is Cade McNown throwing deep passes on the run. Only a few great quarterbacks like Steve Young, Joe Montana and Brett Favre have been successful passing on the run. McNown isn't great yet. And those third-and-seven passes that bounce to the receivers look like high school quality.

Football is a team sport. Teams win and teams lose. But to throw away an entire season for the development (or lack thereof) of one player is totally ridiculous. Instead of Da Bears, this year's version is Da Embearassments.

Rick Pruss
Pensacola, Florida

Where's the loyalty?

What's with all the bandwagon Bears fans? I can't believe all the negativity I'm hearing. I agree that the Bears need to make some adjust-

WE WANT YOUR OPINIONS!

What would be your reaction if Gary Crowton leaves the Bears for BYU? If he does take the job, who would be your choice to be the team's new offensive coordinator?

We want to know what you think about the Bears! We welcome letters of 200 words or less on all matters involving the Monsters of the Midway. **Letters are subject to editing and must include your full name and hometown.**

Send all letters to the above address or reach us via e-mail at: BearReport@aol.com.



ments, but Rome wasn't built in a day. Give the Bears time to make those necessary adjustments and get back on top.

The people who are criticizing the Bears now are the same people who would be acting like diehard fans if the Bears were undefeated. You are not a true sports fan of a team if you are only supportive of the team when they are having a winning season.

The Bears could be 0-16 and they still would be great. After all, they are our Chicago Bears.

Julie A. Hesprich
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

From optimism to disaster

I am a totally frustrated Bear fan living in Packerland. This season has gone from optimism to a disaster. The only good thing to come out of this season so far is the defeat of the Packers.

James Allen is better than Curtis Enis, but we need a big-time back like a Walter Payton or a Marshall Faulk. The defense is good for half a game, but there is no pass rush.

I want the Monsters of the Midway back and not the Teddy Bears playing football in Chicago. I am tired of getting more joy out of the Packers losing than watching the Bears play football.

Tim Garasha
Eagle River, Wisconsin

Jauron sacrificed season

The last I heard, winning was the name of the game. Dick Jauron has sacrificed the season for Cade McNown's development and in doing so has devastated the morale of 52 other players.

The quarterback is the leader who exudes confidence, makes third downs and takes the ball in for a touchdown after the defense gets a turnover or they're inside the red zone. McNown will come on, but he needs work bad.

McStay Jackson
Daytona Beach Shores, Florida

Offense is too predictable

The thing that upsets me the most about the

Bears' record this year is that they seem to have abandoned the running game altogether. Although Gary Crowton's offense is probably the most exciting we've seen in Chicago, it is far too predictable as opposing teams know the Bears will pass with reckless abandon even when they have the lead.

The defense has plenty of stars and up-and-coming talent, but it is suffering also and spending far too much time on the field due to the lack of a running game. Even the great 1985 Bears defense probably would have struggled if the offense consistently went three-and-out.

Next year I hope the Bears boost the running attack with a couple of huge blocking full-backs and then we can return to the "run it down your throat" style attack that we Bear fans love to see.

Add that constant deep threat of receiver Marcus Robinson to that and we just might have what it takes to get our Bears to the next level.

Steve Yates
Surrey, England

Trivia Trove answer



Neal Anderson holds the Bears record for the longest run at Soldier Field, an 80-yarder versus Green Bay in 1988.

(From page 15)

Fan Foto



David Carpenter of Overland Park, Kan., comes from a family of diehard Bear fans. David weighs 22 pounds at 6 months. His mom reports he's training to become a linebacker, but she writes his pediatrician says he's training to be the entire front line.

CLASSIFIED ADS

PRIVATE PARTY: 20 word minimum charge, \$15.00. Each additional word, 65 cents per word.
COMMERCIAL: 20 word minimum charge, \$20.00. Each additional word, 75 cents per word.
SPECIAL FEATURES: Bold type headline, \$5.00 additional. All other bold type, 50 cents per word additional.

PHONE ORDERS
WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED
PAYMENT MUST
ACCOMPANY ORDER

All ads pertaining to the sale of items, services offered or representing a business must run as a paid classified advertisement.

MAIL TO:
BEAR REPORT CLASSIFIED ADS
112 MARKET STREET
SUN PRAIRIE, WI 53590



BEAR WANT ADS

If there's a Bears item you've been searching long and hard for or if you just want to hook up with other Bears fans in your area, we can help. Your request or offer will be printed free of charge on a space-available basis.

All ads must be mailed to: WANT ADS, Bear Report, P.O. Box 4205, Arlington Heights IL 60006.

All ads that pertain to the sale of items or merchandise, services offered, or representing a business establishment must run in the Classified Ads section.

WANTED: Bear programs, uniforms, displays, pennants, pictures and other memorabilia from 1920-1960.

Contact: Dennis Maierhofer, (847) 577-7528.

WANTED: VHS tape of Bears' 46-10 Super Bowl XX victory over New England Patriots. Will pay for tape and postage.

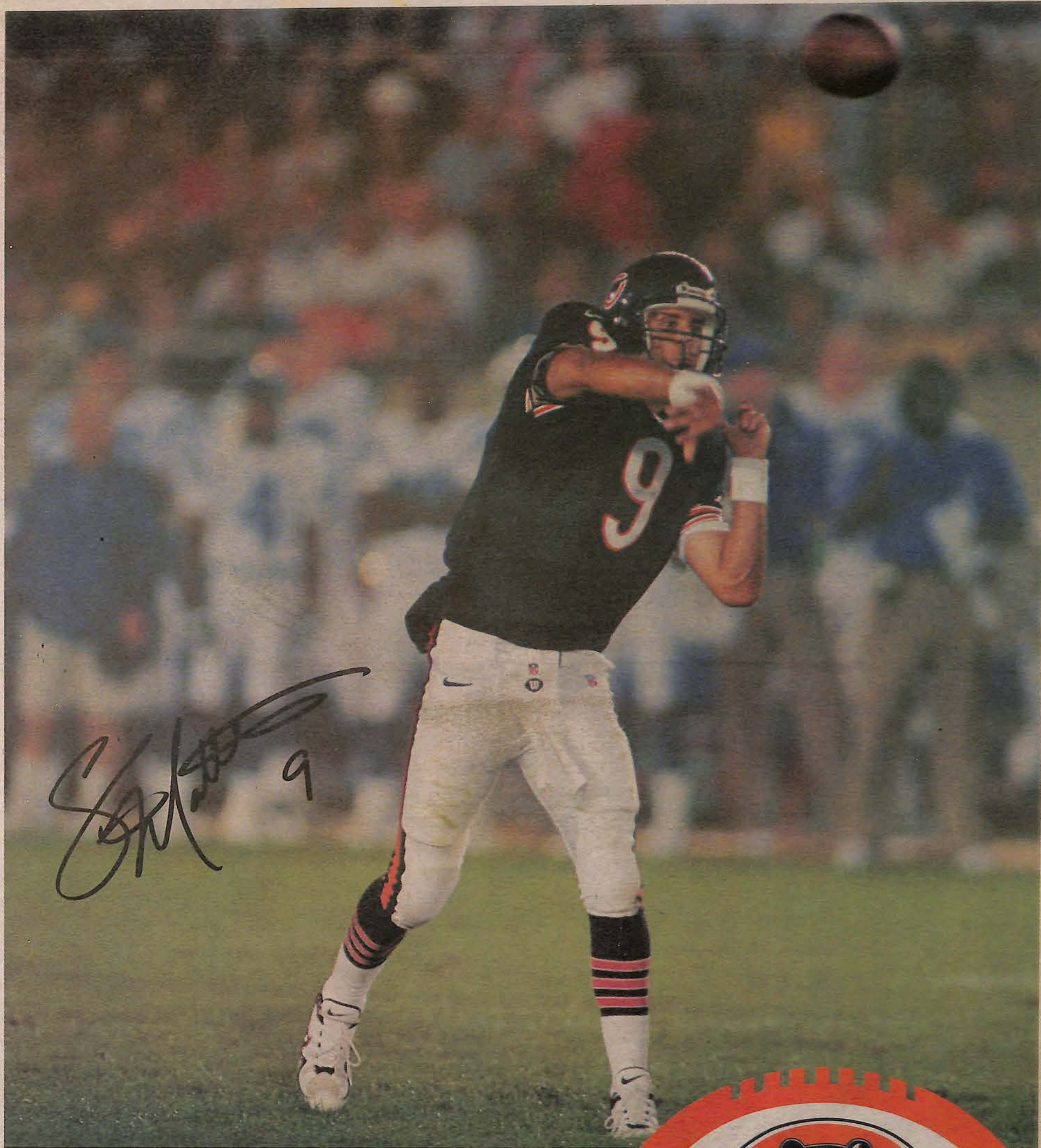
Contact: Mikela Seager, 911 7th Street, Brookings, SD 57007, e-mail address: seager@hotmail.com.

WANTED: Nov. 8, 1999 issue of Sports Illustrated with Walter Payton on the cover, and Nov. 13, 1999 Bear Report Walter Payton tribute issue.

Contact: Scott Stetzler, 305 Mountain Road, Lenhartsville, PA 19534.

WANTED: Used or unused game ticket from last season showing Todd Sauerbrun punting a football over the Sears Tower.

Contact: Henry A. Siliati, 14 Pebble Way, Riverhead, NY 11901.



Shane Matthews

QB

